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REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL;

AND ALSO

A COMPARATIVE VIEW OF THE

POPULATION OF BOSTON IN 1850,

WITH THE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS,

IN 1849 AND 1850,

BY JESSE CHICKERING, M. D.



BOSTON:

1851.

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Oct. 17, 1887
REPORT
CITY OF BOSTON.

In Common Council, July 17, 1851.

Ordered, That Messrs. Haskell, Minot and Allen, with such as the Mayor and Aldermen may join, be a Committee to prepare, and report to the City Council, such facts in relation to the different classes of the population in the City, based upon the census taken by order of the City Council last year, as may afford information upon the subject of the births, deaths, and marriages, among the native and foreign population. And that said Committee have leave to report in print.

Sent up for concurrence.

FRANCIS BRINLEY, *President.*

In Board of Mayor and Aldermen, July 28, 1851.

Read and concurred. And Aldermen Rogers and Grant were joined.

JOHN P. BIGELOW, *Mayor.*

A true copy.

Attest: S. F. McCLEARY, *City Clerk.*

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REPORT.

THE Committee appointed, in accordance with the order of the City Council, passed in July last, have given the subject a careful consideration, and now report:

The original design of the order, under which the Committee have instituted the present investigation, was of a character requiring the most careful and minute analysis of the census of Boston, which was taken in May, 1850, and published in City Document, No. 42, of that year.

The Committee, therefore, availed themselves of the services of Jesse Chickering, M. D., to prepare the tables necessary for an intelligent understanding of the subject. Dr. Chickering's knowledge of the facts involved in the inquiries included in the order of the City Council, his character for the accuracy and thoroughness of his investigations, and his standing as a writer upon subjects connected with population, will give weight and authority to the Report he has prepared under the direction of the Committee.

The Census Report of the Committee of 1850, was prepared with great care and fidelity, and its state-

ments will be regarded with interest, which will increase as the periods arrive when a return of ten years shall call for a new enumeration of the people of the city.

The Report of Dr. Chickering contains a comparative view of the births, marriages and deaths in the city of Boston, considered in respect to the *origin* of the several classes of the population,—and is here appended. It has been prepared with great care and labor, and extends into inquiries not reported in former documents. It exhibits most important results relating to the different *classes* of the population. It shows the effects of the causes in operation in a large, active, and growing community. Some of these results, may, perhaps, surprise those who have not given their attention to the subject; but it is important, at all times, to know the exact state of facts in relation to the population of a city or commonwealth,—as well as to note the tendencies of causes at work in society. This knowledge is not only required for the purposes of the present moment, but for those of history.

The manner of reporting the census, and the popular classification of the population of Boston, has caused many erroneous impressions to obtain deep hold upon the public mind, and have not unfrequently occasioned alarm in the minds of those who have not paid particular attention to the details of the matter.

In all Reports relating to population in Boston, foreigners, and *their descendants*, have been included in one aggregate. By reference to Table II., on the 12th page, and to the explanation on the 14th page, it will be seen that 45 *per cent.* of the foreign element in our population, consists of children under twenty-one years of age. No accurate account can be given of the pro-

portions of this large class (28,912) of our population who were born in this country or city. Persons, qualified by their knowledge on the subject, estimate that from 65 to 75 *per cent.* of this class were born in the United States, and that upwards of 50 *per cent.* of the number were born in Boston. This large and interesting class of the youthful population of our city, attend our public schools, and all the popular and public associations by which they are surrounded, are calculated to make them a far different population from those of the same lineage who received their early impressions in foreign countries.

The Table of Births upon the 19th page, and the conclusions therefrom, which are given in the two succeeding pages, show the influence of the social condition of the different classes of the population upon the number of births in each. As a class, the native population remain unmarried to a greater degree than the foreign residents. This fact is obvious to all persons acquainted with our population, and the facts deduced from the Table of Births, show the average rates of births, among the different classes, in a most striking manner. This table also shows the fact, that there are but very few marriages between the different classes of population. Of 1,843 births in Boston, last year, among the American population, the difference of thirty-four, only, is reported between the number of American fathers and mothers. And of the 2,763 children born of Irish parents for the same period, a difference of fifty-eight only in the aggregate is given, where both parents were not natives of Ireland. The returns for 1849 present the same results relative to the native places of the parents of the children born that year in Boston.

But, though marriages are seldom among those of different origin, and the number of foreign extract are approximating to an equality with that of the American population, and their number *under* 21 years appears to be remarkably large, there are causes which have been operating from the moment of the arrival of the foreigners among us, and will continue to operate with increased force, on them and on their children, which are calculated to assimilate them with the American people, and to unite them both as one people and one community. The intercourse of the two classes with each other, is constant; their relations to each other, make them mutually dependent for the necessities and conveniences of life. They are both shaped by the influences which surround them; and these influences are far more of an American and republican, than of a foreign type.

The facts herein given, present an interesting subject for the consideration of those who will in future have the direction of the municipal affairs of the city, and who will doubtless use every effort in their power to increase its attractions as a place of residence for a tax paying business population. And your Committee hope and believe, that the public lands, as now laid out and improved, will be found to present advantages that will be very soon availed of by a thrifty and substantial class of citizens, and bring about changes in our population that will operate favorably on its prosperity and moral character.

HENRY B. ROGERS,	} Committee.
MOSES GRANT,	
DANIEL N. HASKELL,	
ALBERT T. MINOT,	
JAMES B. ALLEN,	

*To the Committee of the City Council, appointed under
the Order of July last.*

GENTLEMEN :

I send you the following Comparative View of the "*Population of Boston*" in 1850, considered in relation to the Births, Marriages, and Deaths, in 1849 and 1850, and in relation to the Origin and Nativity of the several classes of Inhabitants. I have endeavored to analyse the subject, as far as the official documents would permit, and to trace, as far as may be, the several elements of which the population is composed.

Yours, respectfully,

JESSE CHICKERING.

Boston, November, 1851.

POPULATION OF BOSTON.

According to the State Census, May 1, 1850, the whole population of Boston, exclusive of those excepted in the enumeration, was 138,788. The census was taken with great care by Mr. George Adams; and the number of inhabitants may be considered very near the true number at that date, and very near the *average* during the year. The variations from it in the United States Census taken June 1, one month later, are easily accounted for, and serve only to strengthen our confidence in the general accuracy of the State Census, and in its reliableness for practical purposes.

In a community like that of Boston, where the population is fluctuating, the number of inhabitants will vary somewhat in the several parts of the year. The number on the first of May, may be considered as representing very nearly, and for all practical purposes, the average for the year.

Of these 138,788 inhabitants of Boston, May 1, 1850, there were, including the children, 53,923 from Ireland, 2,666 from Germany, and 7,877 from other foreign countries; making a total of 63,466 of the *foreign* population. Of course there will remain 75,322 for the

American population. The proportions of these classes to the whole number are respectively as follows: 38.13, 1.92, and 5.68 *per cent.*, making a total of 45.73 *per cent.* for the *Foreign*, and 54.27 *per cent.* for the *American* population.

Thus, it appears that but a *little more than half* of the *population of Boston*, are of *American origin*. It is an interesting inquiry, how many are properly of *Boston* origin; that is, whose parents were Bostonians; how many from other parts of Massachusetts; and how many from other States in the Union: as well as how many are from the various foreign countries, including their children. Such an inquiry has important relations to causes which affect the present condition of the community, and are likely to shape materially the future condition not only of the City, but of the whole Commonwealth.

The following Table (I) contains a statement of the number of inhabitants of Boston, May 1, 1850, according to *Sex, Age, and Country*, as appears by the State Census, together with the proportions of each to the whole number, and to the several classes. The *proportions* are given as they serve for a common measure of comparison.

TABLE I.

Exhibiting the Population of Boston, May 1, 1850, according to the State Census.

1. ACCORDING TO SEX.

	Number.		Per cent. of the Whole.		Percent. of Parts.
Males under 21 years, - - -	28,607	-	20.62	-	43.30
" over 21 " - - -	37,465	-	26.99	-	56.70
Total Males, - - - -	-	66,072	-	47.61	100.
Females under 21 years, - - -	30,472	-	21.95	-	41.91
" over 21 " - - -	42,244	-	30.44	-	58.09
Total Females, - - - -	-	72,716	-	52.39	100.
Total Population, - - - -	-	138,788	-	100.	

2. ACCORDING TO AGE.

Under 21 years, Males, - - -	28,607	-	20.62	-	48.42
" " " Females, - - -	30,472	-	21.95	-	51.58
" " " Total, - - -	-	59,079	-	42.57	100.
Over 21 years, Males, - - -	37,465	-	26.99	-	47.00
" " " Females, - - -	42,244	-	30.44	-	53.00
" " " Total, - - -	-	79,709	-	57.43	100.
Total Population, - - - -	-	138,788	-	100.	

3. ACCORDING TO COUNTRY.

Irish by birth, and their children, -	52,923	-	38.13	-	83.39
Germans by birth, and their children, - - - -	2,666	-	1.92	-	4.20
Born in other foreign countries, and their children, - - - -	7,877	-	5.68	-	12.41
Total Foreign Population, - - -	-	63,466	-	45.73	100.
Americans, consisting of White Persons, - - - -	73,237	-	52.77	-	97.23
Americans, consisting of Colored Persons, - - - -	2,085	-	1.50	-	2.77
Total American Population, - - -	-	75,322	-	54.27	100.
Total Population, - - - -	-	138,788	-	100.	

The number of *Americans* under 21 years, and over 21 years, is not specified in the State Census; but we may deduce it from the statements contained in the Census, as follows:—

TABLE II.

	Number.		Per cent. of Total.		Per cent. of Parts.
Of the Whole Population, there were as follows:—					
Under 5 years, - - - -	17,084	-	12.31	-	28.92
From 5 to 15 years, Americans, 12,143	-	-	8.75	-	20.55
From 5 to 15 years, of foreign parentage, - - - - 12,132	-	-	8.74	-	20.54
Total from 5 to 15 years, - -	24,275	-	(17.49)	-	(41.09)
Total to 15 years, - - - -	-	41,359	-	29.80	
Hence there must be from 15 to 21 years, - - - -	-	17,720	-	12.77	29.99
To make up the Total under 21 years, (Table I., <i>Age</i> .) - -	-	59,079	-	42.57	100.
By the Census, the <i>Foreigners</i> under 21, were, - - - -	-	28,912	-	20.83	
Hence the <i>Americans</i> under 21, were, -	-	30,167	-	21.74	40.05
Consequently the <i>Americans</i> over 21, were, - - - -	-	45,155	-	32.53	59.95
To make up the Total American Population, - - - -	-	75,322	-	54.27	100.
By the Census, there were <i>Foreigners</i> under 21 years, - -	28,912	-	20.83	-	45.56
Hence the <i>Foreigners</i> over 21 years, -	34,554	-	24.90	-	54.44
Total Foreign Population, - -	-	63,466	-	45.73	100.
Total Population, - - - -	-	138,788	-	100.	

It will be seen by Table I, *Sex*, that there was *an excess of the Females over the Males to the amount of 6,644 or 4.78 per cent.* of the whole population. Of this number 1,865 were *under*, and 4,779 were *over* 21 years. This excess gives the proportion of 110.05 females to 100 males, a result the reverse of what generally happens except in cities the number of female births being very uniformly only 100 to 105 or 6 male births

This excess of the females is in part to be ascribed to young men leaving on account of business, and not returning to be numbered on the 1st of May, and to females coming from the country, and resorting to the city for their residence. To which may be added the fact that the males by their vocations, especially in cities, are exposed to more fatal accidents than the females. And, though among the foreign immigrants who land among us, a majority are males, the number of them remaining in the city, is not sufficient to preserve an equality in the number of each sex.

We also see in the last column of Table I, *Sex*, that, of the whole number of the *males*, the proportion of those *under*, to those *over* 21 years, exceeded by 1.39 *per cent.* that of the *females under* to those *over* that age, which is in accordance with the general law of the greater number of male births; while the reverse is the case with respect to the proportion of the males *over* 21 years. In other words, we find that the males *under* 21 years, were 43.30 *per cent.* of the total males, and the females *under* that age only 41.91 *per cent.* of their whole number; and that the males *over* 21 years, were 56.70 to 58.09 *per cent.* of females *over* that age. These proportions show the preponderance in the number of females after that age, and that, though the number of the male births is to be presumed to have been greater than that of the females, as was the case in the last two years, there is a tendency before the age of 21 years, which is increased to such a degree after that age, as to reverse the natural proportion of the sexes.

We see by Table I, *Age*, that the number *over*, was greater than *under* 21 years, by 20,630, of whom 8,858 were males, and 11,772 were females. Here is another indication of this *excess of females*. The fact is more

distinctly indicated by the proportions of the sexes in the last column.

The number of the foreign population, including the foreigners by birth and their children, (Table I. *Country*.) constituted 45.73 *per cent.* or nearly half of the whole population. Five-sixths of the foreign population were Irish. Of the American population, 2,085 or 1.50 *per cent.* were *colored*, and the *white* persons were 73,237, or 52.77 *per cent.* only, a little more than half of the whole number. In the last column are exhibited the proportions of the several classes of the foreign and the American population.

We find (Table II.) that of the whole population, 17,084 or 12.31 *per cent.*, were under 5 years, 24,275 or 17.49 *per cent.* were from 5 to 15 years, (the Americans exceeding the foreigners only 11), and 17,720 or 12.77 *per cent.* between 15 and 21 years, making 59,079 under 21 years, while the number over 21 years, was 79,709. (Table I. *Age*.)

It appears by the census that the foreigners *under* 21 years, were 28,912 or 20.83 *per cent.* of the whole population, *which is greater than the average of the whole number under that age*, and shows the *preponderance of the foreign children over the American*, and constitutes 45.56 *per cent.* of the whole foreign population; while the number of the Americans under 21 years, was 30,167, which is only 40.05 *per cent. of the whole American population*. Had the proportion of the Americans under 21 years, been as great as that of the foreigners, the number would have been 34,313 instead of 30,167 or 4,146 more. This fact is important in relation to the number of *births*, as we shall see in examining the City Registrar's Reports on the Births, Marriages and Deaths, in the City of Boston, for the years 1849 and 1850. We shall find that, though the mortality among

the foreign population has been greater, the greater number of births among them, is more than an offset to the deaths, and that *the natural increase of the foreign population, or the excess of the births over the deaths among them in Boston has been greater than that of the American population*; and thus the amount from immigration, serves to give an *additional* increase to their numbers.

As a necessary consequence of *the greater proportion* of the *foreign* population *under 21* years, we find the proportion of *Americans over 21 greater*; the number of the former *over 21* being 34,544 or 54.44 *per cent.*, while that of the latter was 45,155 or 59.95 *per cent.*; that is, 5.51 *per cent. greater*.

It is well known that, for some years past, most of the increase of the population in Boston, has been owing to foreign immigration. In fact, the Americans *decreased 2.27 per cent.* in five years from 1845. If we go back to 1820, we find that the whole number of inhabitants, then in Boston, was 43,298, whom we may regard as substantially, and with few exceptions, of *American origin*. Presuming this to have been the case, we find the increase of the American portion in 30 years, to have been 32,024 or 73.96 *per cent.*, and making the number of this class 75,322 in 1850. This is the result of 30 years; but the result was more favorable to the American population in 25 years to 1845, since which time their number has suffered a diminution of 1,755, according to the State Census of 1850, compared with the City Census of 1845.

Now the population of Boston, in 1820, consisted of 1,690 colored, and 41,608 white persons, and, in 1850, exclusive of the foreign portion, of 2,085 colored, and 73,237 white persons. Consequently the increase of this white portion in the 30 years, was 31,629 or

76.01 *per cent.*, while that of the colored was 395, or 23.37 *per cent.*

This increase of the white portion in thirty years, consists of *Bostonians proper*, and of those who have come here from *other parts of the Commonwealth*, and from *other States*. This increase, uniformly, distributed through the whole period, would average but a little more than 20 *per cent.* in each decennial term, and would be less than 2 *per cent. per annum.* This whole increase, though aided by contributions from almost every town in the Commonwealth, and from most of the other States, has not, I suppose, been equal to what may be fairly considered the *natural* increase in thirty years, of the population of Boston alone in 1820; that is, not equal to what we suppose the excess of births over the deaths among this population would have been, if they had all remained at home.

In the following Table (III) prepared from the City Registrar's Reports for 1849 and 1850, I have supposed that *half* of the whole number of Fathers and Mothers would be a *fair average* for the number of *births* of those whose parents were natives of the several countries named in the first column; in other words, that it will fairly *represent the proportions* of the births, considered in respect to the *nativity of the parents*. I have placed in separate columns these representative numbers of births, according to the classification of the inhabitants of Boston, May 1, 1850, in order to make the comparison with the population.

I have omitted in the table the 37 twin cases in 1849, and the 53 twin cases in 1850, as the birth-place of the parents is not specified in the Reports. Their number is so small, and the distribution of them in respect to parentage is probably such that the omission will not materially affect the result.

TABLE III.

BIRTHPLACES OF THE PARENTS.	BIRTHS IN BOSTON IN 1849.			BIRTHS IN BOSTON IN 1850.		
	Fathers.	Mothers.	Average Births.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Average Births.
Boston,	438	522	480	456	535	495½
Massachusetts, except Boston,	582	516	549	533	501	517
Maine,	279	368	323½	306	393	349½
New Hampshire, . .	305	244	274½	297	227	262
Vermont,	92	65	78½	80	56	68
Rhode Island, . . .	25	33	29	12	14	13
Connecticut,	33	17	25	20	15	17½
Middle States, . . .	78	71	74½	86	95	90½
Southern States, . .	50	35	42½	33	20	26½
Western States, . . .	9	9	9	3	4	3½
United States, . . .	1,891	1,880	1,885½	1,826	1,860	1,843
Ireland,	2,510	2,578	2,559	2,734	2,792	2,763
Germany,	149	121	135	161	140	150½
British Provinces, . .	108	152	135	151	175	163
England,	131	126	128½	158	137	147½
Scotland,	58	33	45½	53	39	46
France,	20	10	15	21	13	17
Other Countries, . . .	100	68	84	62	24	43
Total in other For- eign Countries, . . .	417	389	403	445	388	416½
Unknown,	34	63	48½	60	46	53
Total,	5,031	5,031	5,031	5,226	5,226	5,226

It will be seen by this table, that, though the whole number of births in Boston was *greater* by 195 in 1850, than in 1849, the *American* births were $42\frac{1}{2}$ *less*, while the *foreign* births were $237\frac{1}{2}$ *more*, namely 204 Irish, $15\frac{1}{2}$ German, and 18 of other foreign origin and “unknown.” These facts decisively show the greater increase of the foreign, than of the American population, so far as respects the *number* of births.

The next Table (IV.) contains a Statement of the number of the births in Boston in 1849 and 1850, together with their proportions in respect to the Birth-places of the parents, and a comparison of the births in 1850, with the population, according to the State Census, May 1.

TABLE IV.

Birthplaces of the Parents.	Births in Boston in 1849.		Births in Boston in 1850.		State Census, May 1, 1850.		Births to Population, 1850.
	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.	
Boston,	480	9.54	495½	9.48			1 to
Massachusetts, except Boston,	549	10.91	517	9.89			
Maine,	323½	6.43	349½	6.69			
New Hampshire,	274½	5.46	262	5.01			
Vermont,	78½	1.56	68	1.30			
Rhode Island,	29	.58	13	.25			
Connecticut,	25	.50	17½	.34			
Middle States,	74½	1.48	90½	1.73			
Southern States,	42½	.84	26½	.51			
Western States,	9	.18	3½	.07			
United States,	1,885½	37.48	1,843	35.27	75,322	54.27	40.86
Ireland,	2,559	50.87	2,763	52.87	52,923	38.13	19.15
Germany,	135	2.68	150½	2.88	2,666	1.92	17.71
British Provinces,	130	2.58	163	3.12			
England,	128½	2.55	147½	2.82			
Scotland,	45½	.91	46	.88			
France,	15	.30	17	.33			
Other Countries,	84	1.67	43	.82			
Total in other Foreign Countries,	403	8.01	416½	7.97	7,877	5.68	18.91
Unknown,	48½	.96	53	1.01			
Total,	5,031	100.	5,226	100.	138,788	100.	26.55
Total Foreign, including the Unknown,	3,145½	62.52	3,383	64.73	63,466	45.73	18.76

We see that not only have the American births diminished in number and in their proportion to the whole, but that there has been an increase of the foreign births, including those of which the birthplace of the parents was "unknown," both absolutely and relatively, from 1849 to 1850. In 1850, the foreign births constituted 64.73 *per cent.*, or nearly two-thirds of the whole number, (having gained 2.21 *per cent.* in one year), of which 52.87 *per cent.* were Irish (having gained 2 *per cent.* in the year): 2.88 *per cent.* were German, and 8.98 *per cent.* were of other foreign countries. In 1850, the American births constituted only 35.27 *per cent.* of the whole number, having lost 2.21 *per cent.* in one year.

We find that the *proportion* of the births among the foreigners in 1850, was more than *double* that among the Americans, and *fifty per cent.* more than the average among the whole population. There was 1 birth to 19 of the foreign, 1 to 41 of the American, and 1 to 27 of the whole population, or 5.33, 2.44 and 3.76 *per cent.*, respectively. It seems that the proportion was the greatest among the *Germans*, where it was 5.64 *per cent.*, or 1 to 17.72 of their number.

We have thus endeavored to determine the proportion of the births among the whole population in Boston in 1850, and that of the several classes of the foreign population. Can we determine, with some degree of exactness, *the proportion of the births among the Americans in respect to their origin in the several parts of the United States?*

Mr. George Adams, by an examination of the returns for the Seventh United States' Census, has obtained the following numbers for the males and females born in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, who were inhabitants of Boston, June 1, 1850. He counted the males in all the wards, and the females in wards 1 and

2, and took the proportion of the females to the males in these two wards for their proportion in the other wards, thus making the whole number of the two sexes *over 20 years of age*, 11,790 born in these three States, and inhabitants of Boston, June 1, 1850.

It will be seen by the following table, which exhibits the numbers respectively for these states, that the males from New Hampshire and Vermont, and the females from Maine, were the most numerous;—a result in accordance with the state of things in Massachusetts, which are likely to dispose these emigrants to locate themselves in Boston in unequal proportions in respect to the sexes. The females from Maine come from along the sea-coast on their way to Boston, where they are likely to stop; but those from New Hampshire and Vermont in passing through a portion of the interior of Massachusetts, are attracted to Lowell and other places before reaching Boston. On the contrary, the males are more attracted to Boston, where they hope to find employment suitable to their sex, in commerce, in the mechanical arts and in the professions.

TABLE V.

Statement of the Number of persons in Boston, according to the United States Census, June 1, 1850, who were born in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

States.	Males	Females.	Married Females.	Unmarried Females.	Total.
Maine, - - -	2,416	2,854	1,588	1,266	5,270
New Hampshire,	2,885	2,239	1,432	807	5,124
Vermont, - - -	902	494	247	247	1,396
Total, - - -	6,203	5,587	3,267	2,320	11,790

We must make in addition to this number of 11,790, on account of those *under 20 years of age* born in these states, and of the children of these natives, born in Boston and elsewhere, in order to obtain the whole amount resulting from this emigration to Boston. Of

the number *under* 20 years born in these states, we have not the means at hand of determining with exactness. Of the natives of these states, there were 3,267 *married* females, and in 1850 there were 676 births with mothers among these native females, or one fifth part of those married. I have calculated that the number representing the *births* from the natives of those states, is 679½. Assuming this last number as the average annual increase by births from these states, the number in five years would be 3,397, half of which is 1,699, a number which I suppose will not be considered more than an equivalent for the number of the surviving children under 20 of these natives, and especially if we include in it such others of both sexes born in these states, and under 20 years of age, as had settled in Boston in 1850, and were not included in the estimate of Mr. Adams. By adding 1,699 to the 11,790, we have 13,489 for the whole number, including these children and the minors as the result of emigration from these States. The data seem to be inconsistent with a less number. The number representing the annual births is 679½, or 5.03 *per cent.* of these 13,489, a proportion somewhat *less* than that among the foreign population. I suppose the proportion of the births to be as great among those from Massachusetts out of Boston, from the other two states in New England, Rhode Island and Connecticut, and from the other States, and have accordingly constructed the next Table, VI., containing a statement of the number and proportion of the American births according to the origin of the parents, in Boston in 1850; together with the number of persons, according to their origin in the several parts of the United States, as deduced from the *births alone*. It contains also the number and proportions of persons according to their origin, as deduced from the indications of the *United States Census returns*.

TABLE VI.

Nativity of Parents.	Births in 1850.		Population in proportion to the Births.		Population deduced from the U. S. Census.		Proportions of Births to Population.	
	Proportions per cent.		Number.		Number.		Per cent.	
	1850.	1850.	1850.	1850.	1850.	1850.	1850.	1850.
Boston, - - - - -	495½	495½	20,251	20,251	48,573	48,573	1.02	98.02
Massachusetts, except Boston, - - - - -	517	517	21,129	21,129	10,263	10,263	5.03	19.84
Maine, - - - - -	349½	349½	14,284	14,284	6,144	6,144		
New Hampshire, - - - - -	262	262	10,708	10,708	5,779	5,779		
Vermont, - - - - -	68	68	2,779	2,779	1,366	1,366	5.03	19.84
Rhode Island, - - - - -	13	13	531	531	257	257		
Connecticut, - - - - -	17½	17½	715	715	348	348		
Middle States, - - - - -	90½	90½	3,699	3,699	1,797	1,797	5.03	19.84
Southern States, - - - - -	26½	26½	1,083	1,083	526	526		
Western States, - - - - -	3½	3½	143	143	69	69	5.03	19.84
United States, - - - - -	1,843	1,843	75,322	75,322	75,322	75,322	2.44	40.86
United States, - - - - -	1,843	1,843	75,322	75,322	75,322	75,322	2.44	40.86
Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, - - - - -	679½	679½	27,771	27,771	13,489	13,489	5.03	19.84
Massachusetts, except Boston, - - - - -	1,163½	1,163½	47,551	47,551	61,833	61,833	1.88	53.14
	517	517	21,129	21,129	10,263	10,263	5.03	19.84
Rhode Island and Connecticut, - - - - -	646½	646½	26,422	26,422	51,570	51,570	1.25	79.76
	30½	30½	1,246	1,246	605	605	5.03	19.84
Middle, Southern and Western States, - - - - -	616	616	25,176	25,176	50,965	50,965	1.20	82.73
	120½	120½	4,925	4,925	2,392	2,392	5.03	19.84
Boston, - - - - -	495½	495½	20,251	20,251	48,573	48,573	1.02	98.02

This last result at which we have arrived, though it is in part only an estimate based upon certain facts ascertained, is still to be relied upon as a very near approximation to the true numbers; namely, of the 75,322 inhabitants of Boston of American origin in 1850, about 48,573 or 64.49 *per cent.* consisted of those in Boston in 1820; and 10,263 of those who have come here from other parts of Massachusetts, 14,094 from the other New England States, and 2,392 from other States in the Union, in the last thirty years, including in each case their descendants. There can be no question as to the number of those of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont origin, among whom the number of the births in 1850 was over 5 *per cent.*; and it is hardly to be supposed that the proportion of the births would have been less among those from the interior towns of Massachusetts, or materially different among those from Rhode Island and Connecticut, or among those from the other States. These last constitute so small a fraction, as only very slightly to affect the general result. It follows from this view that the births of the old stock of Bostonians, amounts to only about 1 *per cent. per annum*; while those of the emigrants from other places, both foreign and domestic, are five times as great; of the causes of which we shall hereafter speak.

According to the United States' census, the number of inhabitants in Boston, Aug. 1, 1820, was 43,298, of whom by including their descendants remaining there, were, May 1, 1850, only 48,573, having for their whole increase 5,275, or 12.18 *per cent.* in nearly 30 years. We have seen (p. 15) that the whole *American* increase during the period was 32,024, or 73.96 *per cent.*, of which that of the white population 31,629 or 76.01,

and that of the colored 395, or 23.37 *per cent.* By taking from 48,573, the 2,085 colored persons, we have 46,488 for the *white* portion of the proper Bostonians remaining in 1850, having increased, in 30 years, 4,880 or 11.72 *per cent.* of their number 41,608, which increase is only *half* the proportion of that of the colored. But the increase of the colored was 395, and probably a greater amount than this last had in the meantime come from other places, so that we may reasonably suppose that there was in fact *no actual increase* of the colored by *excess* of births over deaths among them during the period; and very likely there may have been a decrease of their numbers in respect to the number of the births as compared with the deaths.

The American population in Boston, May 1, 1850, considered in respect to their *parental origin*, would be thus classified: namely, there were 48,573 of Boston origin, and 26,749 for whom we are indebted to emigration from other towns in Massachusetts and from other States, since Aug. 1, 1820, when the Fourth United States' Census was taken. On the supposition that the colored population were *stationary*, except from immigration, during the 30 years, the increase of the Boston portion of the white population, would be 5,275, or 12.67 *per cent.* of the 41,608 constituting their number in 1820. The increase of the colored portion, as they are supposed to come from abroad, are included among those born in other parts of the United States.

The *white* population of Boston in 1820, are presumed to have doubled in number, during these 30 years, and in 1850, to have numbered 83,216, of whom only 46,488 were then inhabitants of the city, and 36,728 were inhabitants elsewhere. They have gone

to all parts of the world. They are scattered over our extensive country. Many of them, whether on the banks of the Hudson, the Ohio, or the Mississippi, or on the Pacific coast, still remember with filial affection and youthful fondness, Boston as the place of their birth and of their early associations; and their children early taught by their parents, the events of their early years, and of our Revolutionary history, are led to admire before seeing, the Metropolis of New England, and the places in its vicinity associated with the Independence of a common country.

In consideration of the number of persons born out of Boston, and especially of those from Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, as appears on the United States Census returns, and in consideration of the number of the births in Boston in 1850, of those whose parents were born in other parts of Massachusetts, and in other States, we can hardly suppose that the number of the Americans of Boston lineage, could exceed 48,573, as above, on the first of May, 1850. Assuming this number as substantially correct, and the other numbers also, as above classified according to their origin, we will now compare them with the number of *Deaths* in Boston in 1849, and 1850.

I will here observe that in the Registrar's Reports, of the Deceased whose birthplace was *Boston*, the number includes children of both *foreign* and American parentage. In 1849, no distinction is made, but in 1850, an attempt was made to distinguish the parentage. The whole number in 1850, of those born in Boston, who died there, was 1,904, of whom 939 were of foreign origin, and 965 of American origin, as near as could be ascertained; but it is not presumed that this distinction is numerically exact. The Registrar remarks, that "so

far as the above relates to the parentage of those born in Boston, it must be regarded only as an approximation, it being impossible in many instances, to ascertain the facts. Probably the Americans are stated too high, and the foreign too low."

I have added those 939 specified as born in Boston of foreign origin, and amounting to 25.61 *per cent.* of the whole number of deaths in 1850, to the 803 reported to have been born in Ireland, thus making the number of the deceased of Irish origin 1,752 or 47.51 *per cent.*, and presuming that, as the Irish constitute so great a part of the whole population, and particularly of the foreign population, and of the births also, the number will not be so far from the true number, as materially to effect the inferences we may draw from it, or the general conclusions we may arrive at.

Of the 2,454 deceased in 1849, who were born in Boston, and whose origin is not specified, whether American or foreign, I have supposed the same *proportion* to be of foreign origin as in 1850, and have accordingly transferred as this proportion, 1,210 or 23.82 *per cent.* of the whole number, to the 1,368 reported to have been born in Ireland, making the deaths of Irish origin 2,578 or 50.75 *per cent.*, and those of foreign 3,014 or 59.34 *per cent.*, and those of American origin 2,065 or 40.66 *per cent.* in 1849. The number of Irish deaths was no doubt considerably increased by the prevalence of the Cholera in 1849.

TABLE VII.
Deaths in Boston in 1849 and 1850, according to the Registrar's Report.

Birthplaces.	Deaths in 1849.			Deaths in 1850.			Population, May 1, 1850.	Deaths to Population in 1850.	
	Amount.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Amount.	Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	1 to
Boston, - - - - -	-	-	24.50	-	-	26.31	48,573	1.98	50.33
Massachusetts, except Boston, -	-	-	8.11	965	-	9.00	10,263	3.21	31.10
Maine, - - - - -	156	3.07	-	330	-	-	6,144	2.44	40.96
New Hampshire, - - - - -	108	2.13	-	150	4.09	-	5,779	1.73	57.79
Vermont, - - - - -	24	.47	6.28	100	2.73	-	1,566	1.66	60.23
Rhode Island, - - - - -	12	.24	-	26	.71	8.40	257	7.00	14.27
Connecticut, - - - - -	19	.37	-	18	.49	-	348	4.02	24.85
New England, - - - - -	-	-	38.89	14	.38	-	72,930	2.19	45.49
Middle, Southern and Western States, -	-	-	1.77	-	-	-	2,392	3.21	31.06
United States, - - - - -	-	-	40.66	-	-	-	75,322	2.23	44.83
Ireland, including Irish children born in Boston, - - - - -	-	-	50.75	-	-	-	52,923	3.29	30.38
Germany and Western Europe, - - -	-	-	.91	-	-	-	2,666	1.31	76.17
British America, - - - - -	87	1.71	-	84	2.29	.95	-	-	-
England, - - - - -	97	1.91	-	49	1.34	-	-	-	-
Scotland, - - - - -	30	.59	-	22	.60	-	-	-	-
France, - - - - -	7	.14	-	9	.25	-	-	-	-
Spain and Portugal, - - - - -	5	.10	7.68	2	.05	5.73	7,877	2.66	37.50
West Indies, - - - - -	9	.18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Foreign Countries, - - - - -	33	.65	-	18	.49	-	-	-	-
At Sea, - - - - -	8	.16	-	5	.14	-	-	-	-
Unknown, - - - - -	114	2.24	-	21	.57	-	-	-	-
Total Foreign, - - - - -	3,014	-	59.34	1,987	-	54.19	63,466	3.13	31.94
Total, - - - - -	5,079	-	100.	3,667	-	100	138,788	2.64	37.84

It is worthy of remark that, according to the foregoing table, there was from 1849 to 1850, an *increase of the proportion of deaths* to the whole number, in every class of persons of *American* origin, which increase amounted to 5.15 *per cent.*, while there was an *equal decrease* in the proportion of deaths among the *foreign* population, of which 3.24 *per cent.* was among the Irish; though many Americans left the city, and many foreigners arrived during these two years. This seems to be explained by the fact that many of those who died of the Cholera in 1849, here numbered among the foreign deaths, were *new comers* just arrived, and who of course *had not yet become a part of the proper population of Boston*, though, registered among the deaths, and included in its bill of mortality.

In 1849, there were 611 fatal cases of Cholera in Boston, a large majority of which appear to have been of foreigners, (City Doc. No. 66, p. 9, 1849,) though their precise number is not stated, nor the number among the immigrants just arrived. The City Registrar, in his Report, dated January 24, 1850, remarks (City Doc. No. 4, pp. 10 and 11, 1850,) “that besides the Cholera and diseases of the bowels, so fatal during the last summer and autumn, scarlet fever and some other diseases have prevailed extensively. Much of the unusual mortality is fully accounted for by the deplorable condition of emigrants from Europe, constantly arriving in a state of entire destitution and exhaustion,—fatally diseased themselves, and spreading sickness and death among their relatives and countrymen here. The Cholera found most of its victims among the foreign poor,—in the crowded neighborhoods of Ann, Broad, Sea, and Cove streets, and in similar situations. But for the timely and efficient action of the City Authorities

in removing the causes of sickness, there can be no doubt that the pestilence would have been much more fearful and destructive."

It will be seen by the foregoing table that in 1849, the whole number of deaths in Boston, was 1,412 more than in 1850, of which 385 were among the Americans, and 1,027 among the foreigners, of which last 836 were of Irish. It will be seen by the following table (VIII.) that the number of deaths from the Cholera and kindred diseases, and from causes more likely to affect the foreign than the native population, was greater in 1849 than in 1850, by 1,517, a greater number by 105 than the difference in the two years. These causes are not supposed to have operated exclusively on either class. We know that some Americans died of Cholera in 1849, and of others of these diseases; but it seems obvious to us that these causes had a fatal effect upon a much larger number of the foreign population. Apart from these causes of death connected with the prevailing epidemic, the number of deaths in Boston was substantially the same in 1849, as in other years.

TABLE VIII.

Deaths in Boston from 1846 to 1850, from certain Specified Causes.

CAUSES.	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	Total.	More in 1849 than in 1850.
Bowels, diseases of, - -	251	453	375	264	141	1,484	123
Cholera, - - -	-	-	-	611	1	612	610
Cholera Morbus, - -	24	2	7	47	7	87	40
Diarrhœa, - - -	30	92	32	118	48	320	70
Dysentery, - - -	52	222	278	277	136	965	141
Drinking cold water, -	-	1	4	14	1	20	13
Fever, Scarlet, - - -	106	59	177	317	69	728	248
“ Typhus, - - -	133	666	258	119	61	1,237	58
Infantile Diseases, - -	198	248	277	328	251	1,302	77
Measles, - - -	150	15	16	209	75	465	134
Starvation on ship-board,	-	-	-	3	-	3	3
	944	1,758	1,424	2,307	790	7,223	1,517
From other causes, - -	2,142	2,095	2,240	2,772	2,877	12,126	105
From all causes, - -	3,086	3,853	3,664	5,079	3,667	19,349	1,412

The causes of deaths in these bills of mortality are not determined with scientific exactness ; but they are sufficient for the general purposes of comparison in respect to the leading forms of fatal sickness and of death, to which the human race are subject.

The forms of disease differ somewhat from year to year ; and it will be found that the number of deaths under particular heads, will in like manner vary according to the greater or less prevalence of the common fatal diseases. When an alarming Epidemic prevails, as the Cholera, for example, it seems to absorb a portion of other diseases, at least much disease which, in other years, would be classified under other names, is ascribed to this. So that there is *more uniformity* in the amount of mortality in a large community, than may at first have been supposed. Apart from the Cholera and diseases akin to it, and which are likely to be

mistaken for it, or to run into it by reason of alarm, we find only 105 more deaths in Boston in 1850 than in 1849.

It will be seen by the table (VII.) containing a statement of the *Deaths in Boston in 1849 and 1850*, that, while, in every class as arranged according to their origin, the mortality among the *American* population, seems to have been proportionally greater in 1850 than in 1849, and less among the whole *foreign* population, and particularly among the Irish population, we find there were in 1849, 279 more deaths of *Bostonians*; 82 more of those from other parts of Massachusetts; 11 more of those from other New England States; and 13 more of those from other States, making a total of 385, a number which it is not reasonable to suppose is too large for the effects of the Epidemic and its kindred diseases for that year. Otherwise it would seem that the proportional mortality of the American population is on the increase. With respect to the foreign population, there were 836 fewer deaths among the Irish; 11 among the Germans; and 180 among the other foreigners, in 1850 than in 1849, making a total of 1,027; and in each of these classes the proportion to the whole number was less also, except the Germans among whom it was slightly greater.

We find also that the *proportion of the deaths to the population* in 1850, was (Table VII. last two columns,) 2.64 *per cent.* of the whole number; 3.13 *per cent.* of the foreigners, and 2.23 *per cent.* of the Americans. This last is considerably less than that of the foreigners, and is to be ascribed to the fact of the greater American population. In the cases of Rhode Island and Connecticut, the mortality, stated in the table, is unusual, and seems to have been *accidental*, or the return

may have been imperfect. Among the foreign population who were less numerous than the American, and of whom more of their number died, it is obvious that the proportional mortality was greater in 1850, amounting to 3.29 *per cent.* among the Irish, a portion of whom were victims to the debilitating and fatal effects of a recent emigration ; and we infer that this is a general fact to be expected hereafter. But we are not to infer from this that the *natural* increase of the foreigners is *less* than that of the native population, for this depends upon another element, namely, the number of *births* ; and a faithful comparison of these with the deaths will show the result, and what may be expected to be the general law relating to the two classes. For this purpose I have inserted in the next table (IX.), a statement of the number of Births and of Deaths in 1849 and 1850, according to the classes of persons in Boston, considered in respect to their *origin*, together with their *Increase* from excess of Births, or their *Decrease* from excess of Deaths. Those born in “other foreign countries,” here include those born “at sea” and those whose birthplace was “unknown.”

TABLE IX.

Comparative View of the Births and Deaths in Boston, in 1849 and 1850, arranged according to Origin of the Parents, and of the Deceased.

Birthplaces.	Number of Births and of Deaths.						Increase—Births over Deaths; or Decrease—Deaths over Births.			
	1849. Births.	1850. Births.	1849. Deaths.	1850. Deaths.	1849 and 1850.		1849.		1850.	
					Births.	Deaths.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
Boston, - - - - -	480	495½	1,244	965	975½	2,209	-	764	-	469½
Massachusetts, except Boston, - - -	549	517	412	330	1,066	742	137	-	187	-
Other New England States, - - -	730½	710	319	308	1,440½	627	411½	-	402	-
New England, - - - - -	1,759½	1,722½	1,975	1,603	3,482	3,578	-	215½	119½	-
Other States, - - - - -	126	120½	90	77	246½	167	36	-	43½	-
United States, - - - - -	1,885½	1,843	2,065	1,680	3,728½	3,745	-	179½	163	-
Ireland, including children, &c. - -	2,559	2,763	2,578	1,742	5,322	4,320	-	19	1,021	-
Germany, - - - - -	135	150½	46	35	285½	81	89	-	115½	-
Other Foreign Countries, - - -	451½	469½	390	210	921	600	61½	-	259½	-
Total Foreign, - - - - -	3,145½	3,383	3,014	1,987	6,528½	5,001	131½	-	1,896	-
Total, - - - - -	5,031	5,226	5,079	3,667	10,257	8,746	-	48	1,559	-

We find by the foregoing table that, in 1849, the deaths of the Americans exceed the births by the number 179½, though there was an excess of births in all the American classes except the Bostonians properly so called, among whom the deaths exceeded the births by 764. Among the Irish there was an excess of 19 deaths, and an excess of births among the Germans and among those from all other foreign countries. The result of the year for the whole population was an excess of 48 deaths over the births.

In 1850, the excess of deaths was among the Bostonians only, and the excess of births among the whole population was 1,559. The result of the *two years* has been a *Decrease* of 1,233½ Bostonians; of 96 of the whole New Englanders, and of 16½ of the Americans, while the *Increase* of the foreign population is represented by the number 1,527½, of which 1,002 were Irish, and that of the whole population has been 1,511, a number scarcely equal to two ship loads of emigrants, such as have arrived, and not half equal to the number that have arrived in a single day, at the port of New York.

In 1849 and 1850, the American births were about equal to the American deaths, but the births among the foreign population were 6,528½, exceeding by 1,527½ the 5,001 deaths, a large part of which last were among the *new comers* from foreign countries, especially in 1849. We have seen that in 1849, there were 1,517 more deaths in Boston by Cholera and kindred diseases, than in 1850. In 1849, 611 died of Cholera, more than two-thirds* in August, and a large portion of whom were foreigners just arrived. In 1850, 484 died

* 412 of the 611 fatal Cholera cases were in August, (see City Registrar's Report for 1849, p. 18.)

in the City Institutions at South Boston and at Deer Island. So that we may fairly conclude that nearly one thousand of these deaths in the two years, were of the new comers who were not among the proper inhabitants of Boston, and, while the American births hardly equalled the deaths, the foreign births exceeded the deaths by about 2,500. That this number is not too great for the *natural* increase of the foreign population in Boston during these two years, I would observe, in addition to what I have already said of the deaths of *new* comers, included among the foreign deaths, that there arrived from on ship-board and by railroad about 35,000 a year, which give an amount in the two years, exceeding the foreign population, and equalling half of the whole population of Boston. I will also observe, that, of the 1,715 persons who appear by the Records of the Overseers of the Poor, to have been sent to Deer Island in 1849, 1,136 are there registered as having *come* into Massachusetts in 1849, and of the 355 sent there in the first quarter of 1850, 213 came in 1849 and 1850. I do not say that all who were sent to Deer Island died there; but we are justified in supposing that when the two-thirds of the whole number were new comers, a large portion of the deaths there, were of new comers into Massachusetts and transient residents, and *not properly inhabitants of Boston*.

In order further to show the inequality of the births and deaths among the several classes of the inhabitants, I insert the following table X.

TABLE X.
Containing a Statement of the PROPORTIONS OF THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS in Boston in 1849 and 1850, distinguishing the several classes according to the ORIGIN of the Parents and of the Deceased.

1. OF FOREIGN ORIGIN.

BIRTHPLACES.	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.			POPULATION IN BOSTON.	
	1849.		1850.		1849.		1850.	
	Amount.	Per cent.	Amount.	Per cent.	Amount.	Per cent.	Amount.	Per cent.
Boston, . . .	480	25.46	495½	26.89	1,244	60.24	965	57.44
Massachusetts, except Boston, . . .	549	29.12	517	28.05	412	19.95	330	19.64
Other N. E. States, . .	730½	38.74	710	38.52	319	15.45	308	18.34
New England, . . .	1,759½	93.32	1,722½	93.46	1,975	95.64	1,603	95.42
Other States, . . .	126	6.68	120½	6.54	90	4.36	77	4.58
United States, . . .	1,885½	100.	1,843	100.	2,065	100.	1,680	100.
							75,322	100.

2. OF FOREIGN ORIGIN.

Ireland, including children, &c., . . .	2,559	81.36	2,763	81.67	2,578	85.53	1,742	87.67	52,923	83.39
Germany, . . .	135	4.29	150½	4.45	46	1.53	35	1.76	2,666	4.20
Other Foreign Countries, . . .	451½	14.35	469½	13.88	390	12.94	210	10.57	7,877	12.41
Total Foreign, . . .	3,145½	100.	3,383	100.	3,014	100.	1,987	100.	63,466	100.
Total, . . .	5,031		5,226		5,079		3,667		138,788	

It will be seen that the proportions of the births and also of the deaths, among the several classes are remarkably uniform in each of the years. The *increased* proportion of the deaths among the Irish in 1850, is to be attributed to their *increased* proportion to the *whole* foreign population, as is the *decreased* proportion among the Bostonians to their *decreased* proportion to the whole American population.

But the proportions of the births, compared with those of the deaths, are very different; the most remarkable feature of which is, that the proportion of the births among *the Bostonians is less than one-half of that of the deaths of each year*. The small number of births among them is a most remarkable fact, and suggest the interesting inquiry which involves causes of complicated action and efficiency.

It will be seen also, by examining the last column and comparing it with the others, that the proportions *per cent.* of the *population* are somewhat different from those of the *births* or of the *deaths*. The proportion of the Bostonians is *greater* than that of the deaths, showing that the mortality among them, was *less* than that among those from the rest of Massachusetts, and from other States out of New England, and *greater* than that among those from the other New England States. With respect to the foreign population, the proportion of the Irish was *less* than that of their deaths, indicating a *greater* mortality among them than in either of the other foreign classes and especially of the Germans, among whom the mortality was the *least* of any class in Boston.

In the next table (XI.) I have presented a statement of the number and proportions of the several classes of inhabitants in Boston in 1850, and of their deaths in 1849 and 1850, with a view to exhibit their respective mortality.

TABLE XI.

I. OF AMERICAN ORIGIN.

Birthplaces.	Population in Boston in 1850.		Deaths in 1849 and 1850.	Proportion of Deaths to Population in 1849 and 1850.		Mean Deaths for 1849 and 1850.	Proportion of Mean Deaths to Population for 1849 and 1850.	
	Amount.	Per cent.		Per cent.	1 to		Per cent.	1 to
Boston, - - - - -	48,573	64.49	2,209	4.54	21.98	1,104½	2.27	43.97
Massachusetts, except Boston, - - -	10,263	13.62	742	7.22	13.83	371	3.61	27.66
Other New England States, - - -	14,094	18.71	627	4.44	22.47	312½	2.22	44.95
New England, - - - - -	72,930	96.82	3,578	4.90	20.38	1,789	2.45	40.76
Other States, - - - - -	2,392	3.18	167	6.98	14.32	83½	3.49	28.64
United States, - - - - -	75,322	100.	3,745	4.79	20.11	1,872½	2.48	30.22

2. OF FOREIGN ORIGIN.

Ireland, including children, &c., - - -	52,923	83.39	4,320	8.16	12.25	2,160	4.08	24.50
Germany, - - - - -	2,666	4.20	81	3.03	32.91	40½	1.51	65.80
Other Foreign Countries, - - -	7,877	12.41	600	7.61	13.12	300	3.80	26.25
Total Foreign, - - - - -	63,466	100.	5,001	7.87	12.69	2,500½	3.93	25.38
Total, - - - - -	138,788		8,746	6.30	15.86	4,373	3.15	31.73

We perceive that the mortality of the Bostonians is less than that of all the other classes of Americans except of those from the contiguous States of New England; and in regard to this exception I apprehend that more exact data might show a different result. It is more than 25 *per cent.* less than the average of the whole population, and nearly fifty *per cent.* less than that of the Irish, among whom the mortality appears to be the greatest of any of the classes, though it should be remembered a portion of the deaths among them are of *new comers*, and is an *incident* to their great migration from their native country to a land of strangers, and of their inevitable privations and hardships.

The mortality of the Bostonians seems to be nearly 50 *per cent.* greater than that of the Germans, who appear to be most extraordinarily favored in this respect, if the data are correct, and fairly represent the average mortality among them, for the last two years.

Now it appears that the mortality among the *Irish* was the greatest of any class, being over 4 *per cent. per annum*,—a result, which agrees with the commonly received opinion, the proportion being nearly double that of the Bostonians. How is it then that the increase of the Irish, exclusive of immigration, that is, their *natural* increase or the excess of the births over the deaths among them in Boston, should be so much greater than that of the Bostonians? This result, or what I call *natural* increase, depends upon the result of two elements, *births* and *deaths*; or rather it is the difference between the two. We shall see that the number of *births* among the Bostonians is also very much *less* than among the Irish. Hence the difference in the result, as will be seen by the following table, (XII.) which contains a statement of the proportions *per cent.* of the births and of the

deaths in 1849 and 1850, among the several classes of the population, and of their proportions for the two years. The comparison is made on the supposition that the population of Boston and the number of the several classes averaged the same during the two years, as they were found May 1, 1850.

TABLE XII.

I. OF AMERICAN ORIGIN.

	Population, May 1, 1850.	Proportion of Births to Population.				Proportion of Deaths to Population				Deaths in 1849 and 1850.	Proportion of Births to Population, in 1849 and 1850.		Proportion of Deaths to Population, in 1849 and 1850.	
		1849		1850.		1849.		1850.			Per cent.			
		Per cent	1 to	Per cent	1 to	Per cent.	1 to	Per cent.	1 to					
Boston, - - -	48,573	.98	101.19	1.02	98.02	2.56	39.04	1.98	50.33	2,209	2.00	49.79	4.54	21.98
Massachusetts, except Boston, - - -	10,263	5.35	18.69	5.03	19.85	4.61	24.91	3.21	31.10	742	10.33	9.62	7.22	13.83
Other N. E. States, -	14,094	5.18	19.29	5.04	19.85	2.26	44.18	2.18	45.75	627	10.22	9.78	4.44	22.47
New England, - - -	72,930	2.41	41.44	2.36	42.33	2.71	36.92	2.19	45.09	3,482	4.77	20.94	4.90	20.38
Other States, - - -	2,392	5.27	18.97	5.03	19.85	3.76	26.57	3.22	31.06	167	10.30	9.70	6.98	14.32
United States, - - -	75,322	2.53	39.94	2.44	40.86	2.74	36.47	2.23	44.83	3,745	4.95	20.20	4.97	20.11

2. OF FOREIGN ORIGIN.

Ireland, including children, &c.	52,923	4.83	20.68	5.23	19.15	4.87	20.52	3.29	30.38	5,322	4,320	10.05	9.94	8.16	12.25
Germany, -	2,666	5.06	19.74	5.64	17.71	1.72	57.95	1.31	76.17	285½	81	10.70	9.33	3.03	32.91
Other Foreign Countries, -	7,877	5.73	17.44	5.96	16.77	4.95	20.19	2.26	37.50	921	600	11.69	8.55	7.61	13.12
Total Foreign, -	63,466	4.95	20.17	5.33	18.76	4.74	21.05	3.13	31.94	6,528½	5,001	10.28	9.72	7.87	12.69
Total, -	138,788	3.62	27.85	3.77	26.55	3.66	27.32	2.64	37.84	10,257	8,746	7.39	13.53	6.30	15.86

TABLE XII. *Continued.*

1. OF AMERICAN ORIGIN.

	Average Births per annum in 1849 & 1850.		Average Deaths per annum in 1849 & 1850.		Average Increase or Decrease per annum.	
	Proportion to Population.		Proportion to Population.		Proportion per cent.	
	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.	Increase.	Decrease.
Boston, - - -	487 $\frac{3}{4}$	1.00	1,104 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.27	—	—
Massachusetts, except Boston, - - -	533	5.19	371	3.61	1.58	162
Other N. E. States, -	720 $\frac{1}{4}$	5.11	313 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.22	2.89	406 $\frac{3}{4}$
New England, - -	1,741	2.38	1,789	2.45	—	—
Other States, - -	123 $\frac{1}{4}$	5.15	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	3.49	1.66	39 $\frac{1}{2}$
United States, - -	1,864 $\frac{1}{4}$	2.47	1,872 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.48	.01	—
2. OF FOREIGN ORIGIN.						
Ireland, including children, &c. - -	2,661	5.02	2,160	4.08	.94	501
Germany, - - -	142 $\frac{3}{4}$	5.35	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	1.51	3.84	102 $\frac{1}{4}$
Other Foreign Countries, - - -	460 $\frac{1}{2}$	5.84	300	3.80	2.04	160 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total Foreign, - -	3,264 $\frac{1}{4}$	5.14	2,500 $\frac{1}{2}$	3.93	1.21	763 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total, - - -	5,128 $\frac{1}{2}$	3.69	4,373	3.15	.54	755 $\frac{1}{2}$

By the last table we perceive that in the two years the *births* among the Bostonians were 2 *per cent.* or one in about 50 persons, while the deaths were 4.54 *per cent.* or 1 in 22 persons, showing an excess of 1,233½ deaths in the two years. In respect to those who have come from the rest of Massachusetts, and from other States, the births were over 10 *per cent.*, a proportion, not materially different from that among the several classes of foreign population. But the proportion of the births among the whole American population was *less than half* that among the foreign population for the two years.

As to the *deaths*, the proportion was the least among the Germans, and among the Bostonians considerably less than among the whole American population, though that of the Americans was nearly 40 *per cent.* less than that of the whole foreign population.

It will be seen that the proportion of births of the Bostonians was less than that of the deaths in both years, while the reverse was the case among all the other classes, except among the Irish to a very small degree in 1849, which is more than accounted for by the mortality among the *new comers* of that year. This accumulation of deaths among the Bostonians, amounts to 1,233½ in the two years, and exceeds the increase of all the other classes of the American population, and causes a reduction of the number of the whole American population in Boston, as the result of the two years; consequently the whole increase of the population of Boston for the years 1849 and 1850, or the excess of the births over the deaths, *has been wholly of those of recent foreign origin.*

I see not how this general conclusion in its essential features, respecting the Bostonians proper, the Ameri-

cans and the foreigners in Boston, can be avoided. I do not mean that it is *numerically* exact: that is of no importance. The greatest care was exercised in ascertaining the number of deaths for the two years, and in preparing the State Census for May 1, 1850. These serve as the basis of the calculation.

We shall find that the indications derived from the *Intentions of Marriage* recorded in Boston in 1850, are in accordance with, and confirm, the results obtained by a consideration of the births and deaths, respecting the increase of the several classes of the population. As that part of the Registrar's Report which relates to the intentions of marriage, is wanting in some of the items of the classification, we are unable to make so minute a comparison as could be wished.

TABLE XIII.

Exhibiting a View of the Intentions of Marriage, of the Births and of the Deaths, compared with the Population in the City of Boston in 1850.

Birthplace.	Population May 1, 1850.	Intentions of Marriage.			Proportion of Inten- tions to Population.		Births in 1850.	Proportion of Births to Population.		Deaths in 1850.	Proportion of Deaths to Population.	
		Males.	Females.	Mean.	Per cent.	1 to		Per cent.	1 to		Per cent.	1 to
All Countries, - - - -	138,788	* 2,557	2,557	2,557	1.84	54.27	5,266	3.77	26.55	3,667	2.64	37.84
United States, - - - -	75,322	1,160	1,153	1,156½	1.53	65.12	1,843	2.44	40.86	1,680	2.23	44.83
Foreign Countries, - - -	63,466	1,397	1,404	1,400½	2.20	45.30	3,383	5.33	18.76	1,987	3.13	31.94
Ireland, - - - -	52,923	999	1,099	1,049	1.98	50.45	2,763	5.22	19.15	1,742	3.29	30.38
Foreign, except Ireland, -	10,543	398	305	351½	3.33	29.99	620	5.88	17.00	245	2.32	43.03
Germany and Northern Europe, -	2,666	114	85	99½	3.73	26.79	150½	5.64	17.71	35	1.31	76.17
Remaining Foreign Countries, -	7,877	284	220	252	3.19	31.23	469½	5.96	16.77	210	2.26	37.50
England, - - - -		95	56									
Scotland, - - - -		39	28									
France and Italy, - - -		35	9									
British Provinces, - - -		115	127									
		284	220									

* See marginal Note on the next page.

It will be seen by the foregoing table that the proportion of intentions of marriage to the population in 1850, was considerably *less* among the Americans than among the foreigners. Thus, the number among the whole population was 1 to 54 persons; among the foreign population, 1 to 45; but among the American, 1 to 65 only. Among the Irish it was 1 to 50, and among the Germans, 1 to 27. It would have been interesting to have had the means of determining the proportion among the several classes of the Americans in respect to their origin, and especially that among those properly of Boston, as compared with that among those from other parts of Massachusetts and from other States in the Union.

It will be seen that the proportion of intentions of marriage among the Irish, though greater than that among the Americans, was considerably *less* than that among the rest of the foreigners. This probably arises from the fact that there is a greater proportion of *children* among them than among the other classes; and moreover, very likely a larger proportion of the other foreign classes were single persons on their recent ar-

* NOTE. It may be observed that the number of *intentions* of marriage recorded, was 90 more than that of the *marriages* recorded in Boston in 1850. Of the 2,467 *marriages*, in 1,869 cases, both parties belonged to Boston; in 247, both parties were non-residents, and in 244, the females only were residents; and in 107, the males only, were residents. The sum of the 244 non resident males and 107 non resident females, is 351, and half is $175\frac{1}{2}$ to which last add 247, the number in which both parties were non-residents, and we have $522\frac{1}{2}$, which deducted from 2,557, we have $2,034\frac{1}{2}$ to represent the number of intentions of marriage among the *residents* of Boston in 1850. This number gives the proportion 1.46 *per cent.* or 1 to 68.21, which is somewhat less than that in the text for the whole population. But the Report does not specify the *origin* of the non-resident parties, and I have accordingly based the comparison in the text on the whole number of *intentions* of marriage, presuming that the comparative result will not be materially affected thereby, especially in respect to the *relative proportions* of the several classes in the text. The Report for 1849 specifies these particulars only from July 12th to December 31st.

rival, than among the whole body of the Irish population; and hence there would be a greater proportion of marriages among them than among either the Americans or Irish. It is worthy of attention that the proportion among all the foreigners, exclusive of the Irish, was more than *double* that among the Americans.

It seems that marriages are more frequent among the foreigners in Boston than among the Americans, and probably more frequent among the immigrants who come from other parts of the United States, than among the Bostonians proper, in so far as they are consummated and recorded in Boston.

It is probable that the Americans are more restrained from marriage by the artificial modes of living, and by the apprehended demands of married life, prevalent in our cities, than the foreigners among us, and that this cause operates with more force on the Bostonians proper than on the rest of the Americans. This is likely to be the case, though there are in the possession of the Americans, greater pecuniary means, than among the foreigners, and greater among the Bostonians than among the other Americans; for fashion and the pride of life are blind to the perception of what is necessary or convenient or truly respectable, and desire far outstrips ordinary means; and even education and refinement and honorable standing and employment often fail of the rational fruits of living, and operate to make people of both sexes over fastidious in what is reputed to be necessary, comfortable and respectable.

By inspecting the next table (XIV.) there will be seen the very *small excess* of the births over the intentions of marriage among the Americans—another strong indication of the greater increase of the foreign classes, than of the Americans in Boston in 1850. This excess

among the Americans is less than one-third of the proportion among the foreign population; it is less than 1 *per cent.* (.91) among them, while that of the foreign is more than (3.12) 3 *per cent.* Among the Irish this excess is still greater, namely, 3.23 *per cent.*, while among the Germans, among whom there is the greatest proportion of intentions of marriage, it is only 1.91 *per cent.*, or about the mean. But it will be seen by Table IX. that there was an excess of births over deaths among the Germans in both 1849 and 1850.

TABLE XIV.

Containing a Statement of the Excess of Births over the Intentions of Marriage, compared with the Population in Boston in 1850.

Birthplaces of Parents and of Parties intending Marriage.	Excess of Births over Intentions of Marriage.		
	Number.	Per cent.	1 to
All Countries, - - - - -	2,669	1.92	52.00
United States, - - - - -	686½	.91	109.71
Foreign Countries, - - - - -	1,982½	3.12	32.01
Ireland, - - - - -	1,714	3.23	30.87
Foreign Countries, except Ireland, - -	268½	2.54	39.26
Germany and Northern Europe, - -	51	1.91	52.27
Other Foreign Countries, - - - - -	217½	2.76	36.21

The conclusion at which we have arrived by a comparison of the births and deaths, that the *natural* increase of the foreign population in Boston, was greater than the American, and in fact that it constituted the *whole* increase in 1849 and 1850, is confirmed by the view we have taken of the intentions of marriage in 1850. This result will doubtless surprise many who will hardly think it possible. Is this result general? or is it accidental, and confined to these two years? This must be

determined by registers accurately taken for a series of years. If it be general; how has it happened? What causes have been in operation to produce it? How is it to be accounted for? Can it be explained by what we know of the history of Boston, and by what we know of the state of things here?

The increase of the population and wealth in Boston has been rapid during the last 30 years. Much the largest portion of those who have been added to the population have come from foreign countries; still a few have come from other parts of our own country. With this addition of population there has been a corresponding increase in manufacturing industry, in trade and in wealth.

During this period an unusually large number of emigrants from Europe, and especially from the United Kingdom, have come into the United States. Many of them have settled in Massachusetts, and especially in Boston and its vicinity, and have been at once the cause and the effect of the growth of Boston. Many large works have been undertaken in anticipation of trade, and at the same time stimulating it; and in which labor has been obtained at a cheap rate.

This growth has not been confined to the city of Boston, but has extended to the towns in the vicinity, and to various localities through the Commonwealth.

The city is derived from the country. The inhabitants are attracted thither by the hope of employment, of trade, of pleasure or of support. Thither are brought the materials with which the edifices are reared, the wharves and sewers are constructed, and the streets covered, the merchandise to be sold and distributed in all directions where it may be wanted by the people of the surrounding country; and whatever may be used in the

manufacturing arts, in which the skill and ingenuity of men are also attracted thither, and in which genius and invention are stimulated to higher attainments in the means of administering to the refinement and luxuries of mankind.

Trade or commerce always is, or at least in a series of years, it always must be in favor of the city, though it may not materially exhaust the country of its abundance: otherwise a city must decline and be deserted. This result of trade is necessary to the actual subsistence of the inhabitants, and is implied in all the exertions made to attract commerce to a city, as by railroad or other facilitated means of conveyance, or by offering greater advantages for trade in one city than in another.

As wealth is increased, and forms of luxury and enjoyment are multiplied, the occupations, habits and customs of the people are changed; the simpler modes of living yield to more expensive ones, which can be afforded, for any length of time, by a few only of the more successful, under the unequal results of trade; the amusements, provided at first as mere relaxations from toil, and recommended as at once *moral, healthy and improving*, are introduced, and are soon found, as all experience has shown, to be attended with dangerous temptations; the condition of large numbers at length becomes one of poverty, ignorance, depression of spirit, sickness and crime; and there follows a great mortality among the people of cities.

The deficiency created by this great mortality, is supplied by people who are continually emigrating from other places, and who bring with them simple habits and vigor of constitution, which, however, are apt to be changed before long, either by good fortune or by bad fortune; and they and their descendants at length be-

come merged in the common mass of the citizens, with diminished equality as to condition, with habits changed and less favorable to health; and the consequence is, greater mortality and less average length of life.

These remarks are applicable to cities, to and from which there is allowed a free migration, and in which there is any thing like industrial and social activity among the people. They are especially true where there is great activity and growth,—where all is bustle and activity, as in Boston, New York and other cities in the United States.

While the City is supplied from abroad by a vigorous population, there are those who, in retiring from business, remove to the suburbs; and thus a portion of the *old population* is displaced, and their number is reduced. Besides, there are others, mostly young or in middle life, who are continually removing to distant places, with a view to business and a better support, or who traverse the earth in the chase of commerce and wealth, as is the case in commercial cities like Boston. Meantime, many of those more advanced in life, perhaps less daring, or who may be kept from wandering by various circumstances, remain half dissatisfied, and end their days at home.

The most important fact derived from the comparative view given above, is the result that the whole increase of the population, arising from the excess of births over the deaths for the last two years, has been among the foreign population. Very few of this population were in Boston in 1820, and most of them have come since 1840. They are mostly of the laboring classes. The immigrants were mostly young and in middle life, and possessed of vigorous constitutions; and,

though the mortality among them has been in greater proportion than among the Americans, yet in consequence of their greater natural increase, the additions from this source, have been greater than among the Americans. Being mostly engaged in the laboring employments, and not possessing, and scarcely thinking of the luxuries of life, they are as yet saved from the more debilitating and fatal effects of mental anxiety and luxurious enjoyment,—causes which are more injurious to the continued vigor and increasing numbers of a people, than physical labor.

We speak of the wealth of cities. It is true they have wealth ; but it is brought from abroad,—exhumed from the earth or drawn from the depths of the sea. Art, labor and invention are congregated together to give an additional value to the natural wealth brought thither. That which has a value among men, for use, luxury, fancy or improvement, is here accumulated ; and the representative of all values, there circulates with tenfold freedom, and in tenfold abundance to what it does in the country. In cities the minds of multitudes are brought together, and are stimulated to act in concert, and talent is developed in many ways and in various forms, more fully than among the scattered population of the country. People, and especially the young, are charmed with the appearances of the city, and are attracted to take up their residence there ; and out of the abundance of the good things brought there, they, in their inexperience, are unable to make a just discrimination, and mistake the evil for the good, and thus the use very easily slides into the abuse ; enjoyment becomes excess ; fashion predominates over good taste ; habits of living are adopted with little thought of their being useful or detrimental to health

or life ; and at length the tyranny of fashion becomes as rigid in its demands as any despotism on earth ; when once established, it seeks a perpetual sway.

Those who come from other places, bring with them no capital ; they come with the view to make a better living, to gain a fortune, or to rise to distinction ; they come only to gain ; the success of one individual stimulates many others to pursue as the supreme good, the attainment of property ; the only idea of *success* in their vocabulary, is the acquisition of property ; these adventurers press into business with a different zeal, and with different views, from what is done by the native population, who are very differently educated, and who are partly diverted by the attractions and amusements of a city life, afforded them by the possession of wealth, or restrained in their zeal by the influences of their early education, so that at length those from abroad gain the control of the business, and of the affairs of their adopted city. Others fritter away their patrimony in obscurity and inaction, or squander their inheritance in ease and luxurious enjoyment, till they become extinct, or seek to renovate their fortune and standing by removal to other places. Hence it is that so many in Boston, not natives, have been the leading men in business, and the most prominent men in the community. Hence large fortunes are accumulated by them, and are held for a generation or two, by their families, and then the very individuals, bearing their names, will perhaps cease to be found among the names of the citizens. Hence it is that in one generation, the burden of business, and the management of public affairs pass from one set of men to another ; and new names almost unheard of before, become prominent in the community. Of the leading men in Boston in 1776, very few of their descendants

are now numbered among its inhabitants. Of the principal merchants and public men even in 1820, where are they now prominent before the community? New men have appeared on the stage, to be succeeded by others in another generation; and these again to be succeeded by others. The pride of life, and the satisfactions of honorable place, are but momentary; and in like manner they are to be hereafter possessed and enjoyed by others springing from other families, and perhaps from the most insignificant and ignoble.

Those possessed of affluence have their wants administered to by others, and thus pass a life of luxurious ease. Ordinary fare and ordinary modes of living, such as satisfy the wants of our nature, and give strength to the system, when acquired by toil, are loathed and despised. By the wonderful contrivances of art, commerce places at their disposal the choice things of all climates. Being far removed from the means by which the choice things they enjoy are manufactured or procured, they fail to realize the toil which daily ministers to their luxuries. They separate themselves from the rest of mankind, and suppose themselves to belong to a nobler race. Other cares will grow up in their ideal state, and it is soon found that their sensibility is more acute, and that their wounded sensibility is more harmful to their peace and happiness, and to the human frame, than the ordinary fatigues of physical labor.

The possession of wealth serves as an apology for inactivity and ease; as luxurious enjoyment can be commanded, mankind are prone to indulge; the bounds of "temperance in all things," not being exactly defined or clearly seen, advantage is taken of inclination, and excess is certain to follow; that excess, which is harmful to body and estate. Fashion and custom take the pref-

erence of that which is essential to health and life. But among the laboring classes who are mostly poor, or at least who can get little more than the necessities of life, sleep is sweet after fatigue; no time is allowed them for the superfluities of life, and no means of hoping for the enjoyment of refined or fashionable luxuries; their minds are wholly occupied in the means of procuring for themselves and families, a subsistence in a homely way, which perhaps, after all, is more favorable to health, vigor and the preservation of their progeny, than all the appliances of the rich. The mortality among them is greater, but there remain more monuments to represent them,—not on account of their wisdom, but rather on account of the restraints of their poverty,—than among those who are far more favored by fortune.

In cities where luxuries and fashion prevail, and where the uncertainties are increased, of living in a style considered reputable, marriages are deferred, and many persons of both sexes enter that state at a late period, or continue through life unmarried. This is true more with Bostonians and Americans generally, than with the laboring classes, who are mostly foreigners. The consequence is, that these late marriages are attended with a less numerous, if not a less vigorous progeny. Fashion and luxury are unfavorable to a healthy offspring. Fashion, and a desire of amusement and ease, dictate the necessity, and wealth commands the means, of imposing the duty of rearing the offspring upon those who cannot feel a parent's care for the objects of their charge. The passion for amusement and the fondness of display, create a proneness to avoid the responsibility, as well as to avoid the task of this charge. The laboring classes are busied in gaining the necessities rather than the superfluities of life, and less re-

strained from marriage by the apprehension of an expensive, or the hope of a luxurious mode of life, they enter this state at an earlier period, and fewer of them remain single. The care of providing for themselves is imposed upon them; and their natural affection is directed to their offspring, without the means of imposing upon others the charge which naturally belongs to them. Their labor and care for themselves and their children, invigorate both, in the simple mode of life at which they aim, without suffering those corroding anxieties which are the fruits of fashion, and without the morbid sensibility which is the fruit of luxurious ease. In their humble way they obtain the necessaries of life, and have the satisfaction of being ignorant of the artificial wants and vexations which torture and destroy others.

Of those who resort to cities to better their condition, but a very few *succeed* in obtaining wealth or other reputable distinction. Most of them meet with sharp trials amid the difficulties and temptations with which they are surrounded, and very soon sink down under the weight of care, labor and misfortune, and perish and are forgotten. The stream continues flowing on to supply the waste, and by the abundance of the flow, a multitude of the adventurers remain to do the labor, to fill up the places, and to give a direction to the affairs of the heterogeneous community.

Many of those who were active and prominent thirty years ago, are now in their graves, and have given place to those who now have their day, and are to be followed by others in endless succession. As we contemplate a populous community at epochs somewhat distant, and look beyond the surface, and go into an analysis of the particulars, we find that time changes families, their

condition and their modes of living ; new families gain the ascendancy, introduce new customs, and busy themselves in new employments, thus taking the lead in affairs for the time being. This change is especially to be seen in commercial cities, where from choice, business, or necessity, the people become migratory, where the succeeding generation is not descended from the preceding by natural affinity, but is gathered together promiscuously and apparently as if by accident, yet overruled by Providence, which leads individuals and communities on to their destination.

Dr. Ware

Received of Dr. Ware

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REPORT
OF THE
CITY REGISTRAR,
FOR THE YEAR
1850.

City Document.—No. 10.

R E P O R T

BY THE

CITY REGISTRAR

OF THE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES,

AND

DEATHS,

IN THE

CITY OF BOSTON,

FOR THE YEAR

1850.



BOSTON:

1851.

J. H. EASTBURN, CITY PRINTER.

REPORT.

TO THE HON. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL :

THE Revised City Ordinances require that "the City Registrar shall, in the month of January annually, report to the City Council, a statement of the number of Births, of Intentions of Marriage entered according to law, of Marriages solemnized, and of Deaths recorded during the previous year, with such other information and suggestions in relation thereto as he may deem useful." The following remarks and statistical tables are submitted in compliance with that requisition.

As "useful information and suggestions" only are required by the government, theoretical speculations and too great an array of figures and fractional extensions founded on uncertain data, should be avoided. As the year 1850 closed the first half of the century, it may on this occasion be proper to present some additional tabular statements of vital statistics, especially relating to the last five years which have elapsed since the preparation of the elaborate and valuable Census Report, by Lemuel Shattuck, Esq.

While a considerable improvement in the registration of the three great events of life may be fairly claimed, there is still too slight an appreciation of its importance,

and too many obstacles to be overcome, to carry out, as fully as may be desirable, the law on the subject, especially in a large City, with an ever changing population.

The older records in this office are regarded by antiquarians and genealogists as of great value, and those of later date are often examined and found useful in reference to numerous questions, arising in the distribution of estates, in the obtaining of pensions, and many other matters of private and public interest.

It being impossible to give with accuracy the births and deaths in Wards, especially for the last year, during which a new division has been made, a tabular view is presented, relating to distinct and easily defined limits. For this purpose, all north of State, Court, and Cambridge streets, forms the *first* district; south of the same line and west of Washington street, the *second*; south of State and east of Washington street in the City proper, the *third*; South Boston, except the City Institutions, the *fourth*, and East Boston and the Islands the *fifth* district.

BIRTHS.

Five thousand two hundred and seventy-nine births are registered for the year 1850. A few children are included, who were born out of Boston, but the parents were found residing here when the canvass was made. On the other hand, doubtless a greater number have been born in Boston, whose parents removed from the City before the canvass.

In this department, Mr. George Adams has been the Assistant Registrar employed, and it is believed the service has been faithfully performed by him and his

assistants, and without serious annoyance to the citizens. The table of Births was prepared by him and will be found interesting, especially in regard to the origin of the present population of the City.

On submitting his report, Mr. Adams remarks: "The City was canvassed twice, to obtain the required information, and the result is an increase of about two hundred births over the year 1849. Your instructions have been strictly observed, and the result gives evidence that the work has been thoroughly done. The tabular statement I present, is varied somewhat from that of last year, at your suggestion. Although this division may this year operate unfavorably in comparing the result by Wards with last year's collections, yet I think the divisions now adopted, will ultimately prove best, as they may be permanent, and remain unaffected by future divisions made in the Wards of the City."

"I am happy to state that in collecting the information this year, we have met with the ready and cordial co-operation of the citizens, and it is evident that the Registration of Births, is regarded with increasing favor, as the object and its benefits are better understood. Scarcely a case can be adduced where the information has been withheld, while numerous cases occurred, in which the canvassers were urged to record the Births of other and older children than they were required to take. The usefulness of this Registration cannot be questioned; two year's experience in collecting the information, satisfies me the object meets with popular favor, and that the measure is a practicable one."

However unimportant the registration of births may be regarded by a portion of the community, as to its present utility, there can be no doubt that these records if correctly made and preserved, will be of great usefulness in future years.

MARRIAGES.

During the past year, 2557 Intentions of Marriage have been registered, one or both of the parties, in each case, being described as residing in Boston. The number of marriages actually returned by officiating Clergymen and Magistrates and recorded, is 2467, which includes 247 cases, in which both parties were from other places, and whose intentions of course were not entered here, but in their respective towns and cities. The marriages recorded for 1850, are more than twice the number of any preceding year, although there has been no material increase in the number of Intentions of Marriage entered. It is thus seen that there has been a commendable improvement in making returns for registration by Clergymen and Magistrates. Many of those who solemnize marriages, make each return forthwith, and it often happens that an intention is entered, the marriage takes place, the return made and recorded all on the same day. Other Clergymen, in full compliance with law, return a month's certificates, between the first and tenth of the following month. Every certificate of intention issued, if read, reminds him who officiates at a marriage, of the law, and his duty in regard to the return. Still some have been tardy, and it is believed that a considerable number of marriages, even of last year, are not registered. Delinquents in this matter should understand not only that they are liable to a severe penalty for each neglect, but that innocent parties often suffer serious inconvenience from such omission. The records are often examined to prove marriages and legitimacy, for the benefit of widows and heirs.

The law of 1850 provides that "all persons intending to be joined in marriage, shall cause notice of their intention to be entered before their marriage, in the office of the clerk, registrar or other officer, appointed for such purpose, of the city or town in which they may respectively dwell, (if within the State;) and if there be no such clerk in the place of their residence the like entry shall be made with the clerk of an adjoining town." And the law further provides that clerks shall give a certificate to be delivered to the officiating Minister or Magistrate, before he shall proceed to solemnize the marriage. The Legislature, doubtless intended this law to apply only to persons residing in this State, not to provide facilities for the people of other States, to evade their own laws. An impression seems to have gone abroad, that a marriage certificate or licence may be obtained of clerks for fifty cents, and that parties, wherever they may belong, may immediately be married. Hence the annoyance of very frequent applications for certificates by persons from other States. No certificates of intentions of marriage are issued from this office, unless one or both parties are described as dwelling here.

A full index of the names of parties entering Intentions of Marriage, as well as of parties actually married is now kept in a convenient form, and is found of great utility. Before July 1849, female parties were never indexed, and attempts to find any given name, unless the date can be nearly stated, are laborious and discouraging.

From 1751 to 1761, we have no records of Boston marriages, and from the latter period to 1850, it is probable that only about one half are on record. In cases where the record of a marriage cannot be found,

partial evidence of the fact may be obtained from the entry of intention for publishment. There are eighteen volumes in this office, forming a complete series of intentions entered from the year 1707 to July 1849. These records are of great value and would be much more available were the names indexed. To illustrate the convenience of indexes, a single fact among many, may be briefly stated. In the distribution of an estate, it was necessary to ascertain whether a certain female was living, or if dead, had left issue. She was known to have resided in Boston in 1820, and rumor said she married here between that time and 1830. In order to obtain a clue to the facts in the case, the names of parties to marriage were examined for ten years; nearly a days' labor. With good indexes, the question might have been answered in a few minutes. The expediency of incurring a moderate expense to procure indexes, at least for thirty or fifty years past, is respectfully suggested to the government.

The laws of the Commonwealth in regard to marriages, owing perhaps somewhat to obscurity in the several enactments and modifications, seem not to be well understood by all who solemnize the rite. When the male party to a marriage resides in one town or city, and the female in another, the intention should be entered, and a certificate obtained in each. Many such are married, the entry of intention having been made in only one place. Clergymen may perform the marriage ceremony, the intention having been duly entered, either in the places where they reside or where one or both parties reside; but a Suffolk Clergyman has no legal authority to marry in Berkshire, parties belonging in Suffolk or Worcester. Justices of the Peace, (except Justices throughout the Commonwealth,) can

only marry in the Counties for which they are commissioned, and where one of the parties at least is a resident of the same county. This restriction is not always regarded. Clergymen from other States, occasionally perform the rite in this State. They are not authorized so to do. In a few instances, marriage returns have been made by persons who are unknown in this community, either as Clergymen or Magistrates.

The new marriage law dispensing with the fourteen days publishment formerly required, is regarded as objectionable by some, and as tending to increase hasty and improper marriages. That there has already been some abuses, and that there may be many, is probable.

Parties disposed to enter rashly and foolishly into matrimonial alliances may do so under this law, and there is no remedy. But under the old system, such parties had only to proceed to Providence, or Nashua, to find Clergymen ready to perform the ceremony, and return in a few hours married, despite the opposition of parents or others interested. Respectable people rather than have their intention of marriage posted for weeks, and perhaps published in newspapers, in great numbers, were leaving the State, to accomplish their nuptials among strangers. In a short time it is difficult if not impossible to prove these marriages, and the parties, or their offspring, are liable to be put to great inconvenience.

Persons who have thoughtlessly contracted such marriages, would do well to secure the evidence in a permanent form, if it now exists, for the benefit of whom it may hereafter deeply concern.

DEATHS.

The whole number of Deaths, registered as having occurred in the City, including those who died at Deer Island, is 3,667, being about 1400 less than in 1849, and less in proportion to population, than in the two preceding years. A kind Providence has mercifully preserved the community from pestilential scourges; the only epidemic that has prevailed with severity last year, being Small Pox, which caused 192 deaths.

It is thus seen, that Boston still maintains its satisfactory sanitary reputation. In every part of the City, where the dwellings are fit for human habitation, tolerably ventilated and drained, and where the population live with decent regard to health, human life may be considered as secure as in any populous town. But there are localities where health and safety cannot be expected. In some sections where almost the whole ground is covered with buildings, without proper drains and out houses, dwellings crowded from cellar to attic with human beings, living in filth and are constantly inhaling a pestilential atmosphere, it is not surprising that sickness and deaths are frequent. The record of "places of death," in this office, gives the names of these localities. They are well described in the Report on the Cholera in 1849.

In regard to the causes of death, the record and tables are made up from the best information to be obtained under the present system of proceeding. Funeral Undertakers, and persons who apply for permission to remove the dead from the City, make the reports to this office from information generally derived from attending physicians. The reports are therefore

second-hand, and not always accurate. In many instances, the deceased were not attended by Physicians, or any deserving the name. While our City is well supplied with educated, respectable and skilful physicians, it is deplorably true, that many families prefer to employ impudent pretenders to the healing art, perhaps men who very recently flourished the curry-comb, or graced a pedler's cart, and who are as ignorant of physiology as they are of astronomy. From such practitioners, we expect to have reports of deaths by strange complications of diseases and of absurd names found in no scientific nomenclature.

It is true, as will be seen by one of the tables appended, that the mortality in Boston, shown by the records for five years past, has been greater in proportion to population than formerly. But we may easily account for this increase. The years 1847 and 1849, were remarkable for mortality; the former by ship fever and dysentery, introduced by the starving immigrants, and the latter by the sad visitation of Cholera and kindred diseases. The increased mortality has been among foreigners, and especially the children of foreigners.

By an analysis of the ages of more than two thousand who died in 1850, taken from all the seasons of the year, it is found that the average period of human life in Boston, is less than twenty-one years; that those of American origin, average over twenty-five years, while those of Foreign origin average scarcely seventeen years. The great proportion of infants of foreign parentage, that live only a few days or weeks, is the principal explanation of the difference.

In relation to the greater mortality, and the shortness of life in this City, as compared with the country, there are several important circumstances that should be

borne in mind. Most of the business of the City, commercial and industrial, is performed by men in the prime of life, very many of whom in middle or advanced age, retire to the suburban cities and villages, and more remote rural retreats, giving place to younger recruits from abroad. The fame of Boston for its Hospitals, its curative means and its philanthropy attracts numbers affected by chronic and incurable maladies to our City, and their names soon find a place in our mortality list, instead of being registered at their proper homes. Of the 525 that died last year in the City Institution, and the Massachusetts General Hospital, by far the greater part belonged abroad, or had resided here only a short time. And as before remarked, it is by including in our tables the foreign population, that an unfavorable aspect is given to the vital statistics of Boston.

INTERMENTS.

A statement accompanies this report showing the Interments of the last year. The remains of the dead have been deposited and removed as follows. In the several Cemeteries in the City proper, 821 ; many of these have already been, or soon will be removed to rural Cemeteries. In South Boston Cemeteries, exclusive of the City Institutions, 172. In East Boston, Cemeteries 306. In Tombs at the House of Industry 198, and two at the House of Correction. In tombs and graves on Deer Island, 163. Removed from the City, including considerable numbers to other States, 2005.

It now seems probable from the increased interest taken in providing rural Cemeteries, and the indisposi-

tion to continue burials in the City proper, that little is to be feared from intramural interments. An enlightened public sentiment on this subject, it may be hoped will save the City from such evils as have been experienced in other places.

The old Burying Grounds in the City proper, being under the control of the Mayor and Aldermen, the tombs mostly private property, are generally, it is believed, kept in satisfactory condition. Religious Societies having Cemeteries *under* their places of worship, it may be reasonably expected will be careful to prevent any improper use of them. And it is believed no such Cemeteries will again be constructed. The Hawes Burial Ground at South Boston, given for the inhabitants of that section of the City and managed by certain Trustees; the Roman Catholic ground at South Boston, owned as it is understood, by a great number of proprietors of single graves,—and the Hull street Cemetery owned in part by an Association, and partly by tomb proprietors, are not in a satisfactory condition. Practically, the government of the City has little control over them. The gates and fences are out of repair, and in summer the rank vegetable growth receives little or no care. The condition of these Cemeteries reflects no credit on those who claim the ownership of the premises.

REMARKS.

Public records, especially of names, would be much more correct were there more attention paid to legible chirography. Those who prepare memoranda and returns for recording officers should take especial care to write plainly. Professional men who write with great rapidity and little care, are often faulty in this matter. Such names as Peirce, Pierce, Prince and Prime, may be so written, that a copyist will be as likely to take one as another in transcribing, and thus important records are often made erroneous.

In regard to the ages of parties to marriage, and of the dead, our registration is doubtless quite imperfect. A numerous class do not know their ages. Many foreigners seem altogether at a loss to *guess* even at decades of years. Hence the great numbers set down as 30, 40, and 50.

In 1845, a Census of the City was taken under the direction and supervision of Lemuel Shattuck, Esq., which with a valuable mass of statistics, was published and is found convenient, in relation to the past history of Boston. Some of the tables annexed, are in continuation of Mr. Shattuck's tables, relating to vital statistics.

In 1845, the population of Boston consisted of

Americans and their Children, -	-	-	77,077
Foreigners and their Children, -	-	-	37,289

Total, -	-	-	-	114,366
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In 1850, according to the Census taken in May, for State and City purposes, the population consisted of

Americans and their Children, -	-	-	75,322
Foreigners and their Children, -	-	-	63,466

Total, -	-	-	-	138,788
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It is thus seen that there has been in five years, an actual diminution of 1755 in the American, and an increase of 26,177 in the foreign population. It requires but little observation to account for these important changes. The multiplied facilities for rapid traveling have made it practicable and convenient for the business men of Boston TO LIVE OUT OF TOWN, and thousands of them have within a few years established their family residences near the various railroad stations and omnibus routes within ten or fifteen miles. Their warehouses, stores, shops, and employees, remain in the City. Our native population has been also considerably affected by the numbers who have left seeking a golden harvest in California.

It is within the last five years, that the tide of emigration from Europe has set strongly to Boston. Previously we received directly a much smaller proportion, of a less emigration, While the greater part of the emigrants landing in Boston, proceed directly to the interior of New England, or the Western States, many remain including generally the most undesirable portion. The surrender of considerable sections of the City, formerly occupied by a cleanly and healthy population, mostly living one family in a dwelling, to another class, who crowd the premises from cellar to garret, and live without much regard to cleanliness, is giving to such sections an unfavorable character. In these localities, the almoners of public and private charity, the dispensary physicians and funeral undertakers, find much employment.

As the last year belonged to the first half of the century, it has been deemed best to continue the old vocabulary of causes of death in the tables presented herewith. It may be desirable to adopt for the future, the names and classification of diseases as set forth in the State Reports, and recommended in the Report of the Commissioners on a Sanitary Survey of the Commonwealth. But it may be apprehended that no nomenclature and classification that can be proposed will receive the approbation of all physicians, and that there must continue to be a want of uniformity in stating the causes of death.

In compliance with the State law, copies of the record of births, marriages, and deaths, have been prepared and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. These copies are made from 690 pages of records, equal to about 1400 pages of letter size.

The tables and statements annexed relate to the Births; Intentions of Marriage entered; deaths and ages; causes of deaths; deaths each day: interments and removals of the dead; population, births and deaths in different sections of the City, in 1850; population, births, marriages and deaths, 1841 to 1850; occupations and ages, 1850; causes of death 1846 to 1850; classification of causes of death, 1846 to 1850; birth places of the dead of 1850, and monthly statement of births, marriages and deaths in 1850.

Respectfully submitted,

ARTEMAS SIMONDS.

City Registrar's Office, January 30th, 1851.

I. BIRTHS registered in Boston, in the Year 1850.

DIVISIONS.	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Males.	808	509	862	249	204	49	2681
Females.	810	443	854	238	204	49	2598
Total.	1618	952	1716	487	408	98	5279
Twins.	19	3	22	6	1	2	53

Birth Places of Parents.	Fathers		Fathers		Fathers		Fathers		Fathers		Fathers		Fathers		Fathers	
	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers
Boston - - -	143	151	137	173	98	115	45	59	32	36	1	1	456	535		
Massachusetts (except Boston) - -	155	158	164	142	104	98	51	45	53	58	6	-	533	501		
Maine - - -	101	139	73	92	57	79	31	30	39	48	5	5	306	393		
New Hampshire - -	109	66	71	54	58	42	29	35	29	30	1	-	297	227		
Vermont - - -	27	18	22	15	13	16	7	4	11	3	-	-	80	56		
Rhode Island - -	2	2	3	2	1	3	3	5	2	2	1	-	12	14		
Connecticut - -	4	6	6	1	6	3	1	1	3	4	-	-	20	15		
Middle States - -	27	26	18	32	19	25	8	5	11	7	3	-	86	95		
Southern States - -	9	4	11	13	9	3	1	-	2	-	1	-	33	20		
Western States - -	3	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4		
British Provinces	39	53	19	29	43	47	15	16	28	20	7	10	151	175		
England - - -	35	39	37	26	53	41	14	13	16	15	3	3	158	137		
Ireland - - -	861	886	261	259	1151	1163	244	253	152	156	65	75	2734	2792		
Scotland - - -	10	9	7	10	18	8	13	7	3	4	2	1	53	39		
Germany - - -	17	14	82	76	38	29	7	4	16	16	1	1	161	140		
France - - -	7	2	8	6	1	3	4	1	1	1	-	-	21	13		
Other Countries - -	28	7	16	9	10	5	5	1	3	2	-	-	62	54		
Unknown - - -	22	16	14	10	15	13	3	2	6	5	-	-	60	46		
	1599	1599	949	949	1694	1694	481	481	407	407	96	96	5226	5226		

RECAPITULATION.

New England States.	United States, except New England.	Foreign Countries.
Fathers, 1704	Fathers, 122	Fathers, 3340
Mothers, 1741	Mothers, 119	Mothers, 3320

II. *Abstract of MARRIAGES intended, entered on the Records of the City of Boston, from January 1st, to December 31st, 1850.*

COUNTRIES.		Male.	Female.	First Marriage.	Second Marriage.	Third Marriage.	Fourth Marriage.	Under 20 years.	From 20 to 25.	From 25 to 30.	From 30 to 40.	From 40 to 50.	Over 50 years.
United States, - -	Male	1160	-	971	162	22	5	14	486	370	192	62	36
	Female	-	1153	1049	100	3	1	239	545	215	108	40	6
England, - - -	Male	95	-	74	19	2	-	3	28	36	19	4	5
	Female	-	56	50	6	-	-	11	22	14	7	2	-
Ireland, - - -	Male	999	-	863	133	3	-	14	397	358	180	40	10
	Female	-	1099	998	100	1	-	135	545	284	117	18	-
Scotland, - - -	Male	39	-	31	8	-	-	1	10	18	8	1	1
	Female	-	28	25	2	1	-	2	15	7	3	-	1
Germany and North- ern Europe, - -	Male	114	-	104	8	1	1	-	27	52	28	5	2
	Female	-	85	80	5	-	-	13	41	21	8	1	1
France and Italy, -	Male	35	-	31	4	-	-	7	18	8	1	1	-
	Female	-	9	7	2	-	-	4	3	2	-	-	-
British Provinces,	Male	115	-	105	10	-	-	2	47	42	19	3	2
	Female	-	127	123	4	-	-	28	65	26	8	-	-
		2557	2557										

The Marriages recorded for the year, number 2467.

In 1869 cases, both parties are described as belonging to Boston.

In 247 " do. do. as non-residents.

In 244 " the Female a resident, the Male a non-resident.

In 107 " the Male a resident, the Female a non-resident.

Twenty-three hundred and ninety-nine of these Marriages have been solemnized by more than 150 Clergymen, of all the various sects; one having returned 165, another 149, three others over 100 each, while the great majority have only certified to, from 1 to 20 each. Sixty-eight have been returned by 15 Magistrates.

III. General Abstract of the BILL OF MORTALITY, 1850, as reported at the City Registrar's Office.

Deaths and Ages.

Months.	Stillborn.	Under 1 year.		1 to 2.		2 to 3.		3 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		90 to 100.		Over 100.		Totals.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
Jan.	21	41	37	13	12	11	8	8	11	6	3	1	2	2	10	25	18	15	13	15	13	12	5	7	5	5	13	1	0	0	0	0	313		
Feb.	15	28	38	21	12	8	12	16	7	9	4	2	3	4	9	18	22	13	13	4	7	8	7	6	12	3	4	0	3	1	0	0	294		
March.	23	46	27	22	13	9	9	7	9	12	8	5	6	7	18	29	24	16	11	11	16	12	2	7	6	1	3	6	0	0	0	350			
April.	29	31	24	16	18	8	8	10	9	7	10	1	3	2	5	14	22	21	18	14	12	4	2	11	8	3	8	3	2	1	1	0	296		
May.	25	26	21	19	16	8	6	9	9	7	7	7	5	5	8	21	28	8	14	18	9	14	7	8	9	4	3	1	3	1	0	0	301		
June.	24	26	29	11	14	10	6	9	6	9	7	3	3	3	11	21	23	22	11	11	7	5	9	5	7	3	3	1	2	0	1	0	1	279	
July.	27	39	42	13	13	3	9	4	3	7	5	1	2	4	18	12	20	20	9	7	9	4	7	5	1	5	2	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	271
Aug.	26	72	68	29	27	14	9	6	7	8	8	1	2	5	8	17	19	16	13	16	7	11	10	8	4	4	2	1	2	1	1	0	0	396	
Sept.	12	54	38	32	30	11	2	6	8	6	5	3	1	4	7	20	19	18	7	19	5	2	5	2	5	4	8	2	3	0	2	0	0	328	
Oct.	23	34	30	21	14	7	5	3	6	6	5	5	1	2	7	23	13	15	11	6	11	4	3	6	3	4	7	3	3	0	3	0	0	261	
Nov.	12	38	30	22	13	6	5	8	8	5	10	1	2	5	7	17	12	11	17	6	9	7	7	4	6	2	5	1	2	1	2	0	0	269	
Dec.	19	32	28	20	18	11	9	16	9	8	3	3	3	0	6	16	30	16	17	9	10	7	5	8	12	5	5	0	2	0	1	0	0	309	
	256	467	412	239	200	106	88	102	92	90	75	36	32	42	89	228	247	199	170	138	108	99	76	74	83	44	64	18	31	5	12	0	1	3667	

IV. *Diseases and Causes of Death in Boston, in 1850.*

DISEASES.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Accidental,	4	1	4	2	2	2	5	6	3	4	1	2	36
Abscess,	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	9
Apoplexy,	2	3	0	1	1	3	4	5	2	3	1	2	27
Anemia,	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	4
Asthma,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bronchitis,	1	3	3	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	12
Burns and Scalds,	3	3	4	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	1	2	20
Bowels, disease of,	3	1	1	3	2	4	9	59	44	9	5	1	141
" inflammation of,	2	6	9	8	10	9	2	5	2	2	3	4	62
Bladder, disease of,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Brain, " "	2	5	5	5	7	1	6	4	4	2	2	2	45
" inflammation of,	4	7	4	0	3	3	1	2	1	3	0	3	31
" congestion of,	0	1	4	2	1	3	0	1	1	1	1	0	15
Consumption,	50	37	43	54	50	38	44	43	57	55	51	64	586
Convulsions,	8	13	11	5	8	10	16	13	15	10	13	7	129
Croup,	14	9	8	4	5	8	3	2	1	5	16	12	87
Cancer,	3	3	5	3	1	3	1	1	3	1	5	0	29
Chorea,	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cholera,	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
" infantum,	1	0	0	0	0	2	6	12	12	2	1	0	36
" morbus,	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	7
Canker,	0	3	2	1	2	2	6	5	6	6	2	1	36
Chicken pox,	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cyanosis,	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Child-birth,	2	4	5	5	4	2	4	6	3	1	1	1	38
Cramp,	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Diarrhoea,	0	1	2	2	3	1	3	13	13	8	1	1	48
Dysentery,	6	3	3	1	3	1	20	41	35	12	7	4	136
Debility,	3	3	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	4	22
Diseases unknown,	6	3	6	7	4	4	3	2	3	0	1	4	43
Dropsy,	7	6	5	2	6	10	2	12	5	4	5	8	72
" of Brain,	9	13	13	20	16	10	11	16	9	16	7	17	157
Drowned,	1	2	1	1	6	3	3	2	3	1	0	0	23
Delirium tremens,	4	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	12
Drinking cold water,	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Diabetes,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Epilepsy,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Executed,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Erysipelas,	9	8	10	9	8	7	2	1	1	1	7	2	65
Exhaustion,	2	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	2	3	14
Fever,	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	4	3	1	1	16
" typhus,	5	5	2	6	10	8	1	3	5	1	3	12	61
" typhoid,	5	7	2	2	2	3	1	5	2	3	7	4	43
" scarlet,	10	8	3	7	8	8	7	1	1	3	7	6	69
" lung,	22	14	28	21	12	8	6	4	5	8	13	24	165
" puerperal,	4	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	18

Diseases and Causes of Death in Boston, in 1850.

DISEASES.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Fever, brain,	1	0	3	4	1	2	0	2	1	4	0	1	19
“ rheumatic,	1	3	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	9
Fractures,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Gout,	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hernia,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hemorrhage	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	2	1	9
Whooping cough,	6	9	9	7	8	9	3	8	5	4	7	6	81
Heart, disease of,	5	2	5	4	5	6	3	7	1	1	8	5	52
Hip, “ “	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Influenza,	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	6
Intemperance,	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	2	3	0	1	0	12
Infantile diseases,	27	22	28	15	12	15	12	33	22	23	25	17	251
Inrusseption,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Kidneys, disease of,	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	5
Liver, “ “	4	4	2	0	4	4	2	3	0	0	2	4	29
Lungs, congestion of,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3	6
“ inflammation of,	22	12	25	15	10	5	3	0	4	9	4	16	125
Mortification,	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	10
Malformation,	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Marasmus,	7	7	7	10	7	6	7	11	9	8	5	7	91
Measles,	1	2	4	0	2	8	4	7	7	7	11	22	75
Neuralgia,	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Old age,	4	7	9	9	8	4	5	5	6	10	7	6	80
Palsy,	3	3	3	5	1	3	5	0	0	3	4	3	33
Poison,	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Peritonitis,	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	7
Pleurisy,	1	1	1	2	3	2	0	0	0	2	3	2	17
Purpura,	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Quincy,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
Rheumatism,	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Spine, disease of,	3	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	1	12
Scrofula,	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	8
Suffocation,	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	5
Stomach, disease of,	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
“ inflammation of,	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Syphilis,	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Suicide,	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	12
Small pox,	10	15	28	27	33	36	27	8	2	1	5	0	192
Strangulation,	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Teething,	7	10	11	16	4	7	3	22	9	9	7	9	108
Tumor,	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	17
Throat, diseases of,	1	2	0	2	2	0	1	1	3	1	0	1	14
Ulcer,	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	6
Worms,	0	2	2	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	3	14
	313	294	350	296	301	279	271	396	328	261	269	309	3667

V. TABLE,

Showing the Deaths in Boston, on each day of the Year, 1850, as reported by Funeral Undertakers and others.

Day.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
1	14	18	9	8	12	12	11	15	9	5	12	6
2	7	14	11	5	10	10	2	13	9	6	9	10
3	17	8	10	6	13	15	6	7	12	9	16	9
4	9	5	10	7	13	13	11	12	7	8	4	7
5	14	11	11	13	8	4	6	10	9	12	7	13
6	9	7	8	10	10	13	8	4	14	14	9	13
7	11	14	11	10	6	8	10	17	6	6	8	8
8	16	14	16	8	8	11	6	12	10	4	3	13
9	8	3	12	11	9	16	11	10	29	9	8	8
10	16	13	7	15	13	14	8	8	15	8	10	7
11	13	11	19	11	10	4	6	6	17	8	6	13
12	12	6	11	18	6	6	6	12	15	14	17	7
13	8	11	15	7	8	13	5	17	6	3	7	13
14	4	9	6	12	10	10	6	15	13	11	5	9
15	10	11	7	15	10	11	7	10	8	7	6	10
16	12	7	11	10	15	10	4	14	9	8	7	9
17	7	20	10	14	10	5	15	21	11	12	10	10
18	7	12	12	10	13	6	14	11	14	5	5	13
19	10	8	7	7	4	7	14	18	10	9	11	7
20	3	16	9	15	8	12	10	15	8	8	2	7
21	15	14	8	12	13	6	4	17	9	5	16	12
22	15	10	8	13	8	12	11	11	10	10	7	14
23	4	5	13	9	15	7	6	10	16	6	16	8
24	11	6	13	7	7	8	11	17	7	9	13	9
25	13	10	13	10	7	9	18	9	12	5	9	4
26	13	8	12	10	7	11	5	11	10	10	12	9
27	5	14	17	5	12	5	10	12	6	12	13	10
28	6	9	13	6	13	3	17	10	9	9	4	15
29	9	.	12	8	6	8	6	9	9	15	12	9
30	10	.	18	4	12	10	7	16	9	5	5	8
31	5	.	11	.	5	.	10	27	.	6	.	19
	313	294	350	296	301	279	271	396	328	261	269	309

VI. *Statement of Interments, and Removals of the Dead, 1850.*

South Burial Ground, - - - - -	375	
Copps Hill Burial Ground, - - - - -	135	
Hull Street Cemetery, - - - - -	35	
Granary Burial Ground, - - - - -	59	
Chapel " " - - - - -	35	
Central " " - - - - -	104	
St. Paul's Cemetery, - - - - -	31	
Trinity Church Cemetery, - - - - -	3	
Park Street Church Cemetery, - - - - -	7	
Christ Church " - - - - -	37	
	<hr/>	821
Hawes Ground, South Boston, - - - - -	59	
Union " " - - - - -	8	
St. Matthews Cemetery, South Boston, - - - - -	44	
Roman Catholic Burial Ground, South Boston, - - - - -	61	
East Boston " " - - - - -	301	
Israelitish " " East Boston, - - - - -	5	
Deer Island " " - - - - -	163	
House of Industry, Tombs, South Boston, - - - - -	198	
House of Correction, " " " - - - - -	2	
	<hr/>	841
Removed from City, viz.		
To Mount Auburn, - - - - -	162	
" Forest Hills, - - - - -	21	
" Other Cities, Towns and States, - - - - -	1822	
	<hr/>	2005
	<hr/>	3667
	<hr/>	

The above relates to original interments, many of which are only temporary, several hundreds of the dead, during the year, having been disinterred and removed to rural cemeteries. On the other hand, the remains of 112 persons who died out of the City, have been interred here in family vaults.

VII. POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS, *in several sections of the City, 1850.*

[District.		Population.	Births.	Deaths.
No. 1.	Part North of State, Court, and Cambridge Streets, - - - -	42,438	1618	982
2.	Part West of Washington, South of Court and Cambridge Streets, -	33,668	952	696
3.	Part East of Washington, South of State Street, - - - -	39,522	1716	959
4.	South Boston, except City Institutions,	13,309	487	281
5.	East Boston and Islands, - - -	9,851	408	224
	City institutions at South Boston and Deer Island, - - - -	.	98	454
	Massachusetts General Hospital, -	.	.	71
	Total, -	138,788	5279	3667

VIII. *Summary Statement of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS, in Boston, recorded for ten years, ending December 31, 1850, compiled from Mr. Shattuck's Census of 1845, for the first five, and from the Records the last five years.*

Years.	Population.	Births recorded.	Intention of Marriages entered.	Marriages recorded.	Deaths.		Total, Deaths.	Proportion to Population.	
					Males.	Females.		One in	In 100.
1841	90,874	35	1587	909	927	856	1783	50	1.96
1842	96,747	22	1729	912	1147	1113	2260	42	2.33
1843	102,620	26	1810	904	986	1022	2008	51	1.95
1844	108,943	15	1987	1029	1015	1039	2054	52	1.89
1845	114,366	8	2351	1078	1181	1158	2340	48	2.04
1846	119,203	26	2235	966	1614	1472	3086	39	2.59
1847	124,099	32	2247	836	2077	1776	3853	32	3.10
1848	128,976	23	2554	821	1915	1749	3664	35	2.84
1849	133,892	5081	2287	1167	2604	2475	5079	26	3.79
1850	138,788	5279	2557	2467	1887	1780	3667	38	2.64

IX. *Statement showing the aggregate and average ages of 503 men who died in 1850, and whose professions and occupations were ascertained.*

No.	Profession or Occupation.	Aggregate Ages.	Ages ranging from	Average Ages.
181	Laborers, - -	7019	19 to 87 years.	38.77 years.
66	Mariners, - -	2519	18 to 80 "	38.16 "
30	Carpenters, -	1492	22 to 87 "	49.73 "
20	Clerks, - -	700	15 to 67 "	35. "
23	Merchants, -	1191	25 to 86 "	51.78 "
18	Traders, - -	930	27 to 91 "	51.66 "
11	Tailors, - -	395	21 to 62 "	35.91 "
10	Shoemakers, -	499	22 to 78 "	49.90 "
16	Teamsters, -	610	19 to 69 "	38.12 "
10	Blacksmiths, -	362	20 to 66 "	36.20 "
8	Farmers, - -	499	37 to 77 "	62.37 "
9	Gentlemen, -	490	33 to 71 "	55.54 "
8	Masons, - -	442	22 to 76 "	55.25 "
4	Clergymen, -	258	42 to 80 "	64.50 "
5	Coopers, - -	222	29 to 61 "	44.20 "
4	Butchers, - -	141	19 to 50 "	35.25 "
3	Barbers, - -	130	32 to 52 "	43.33 "
5	Painters, - -	242	35 to 82 "	48.40 "
3	Cabinetmakers, -	134	36 to 60 "	44.66 "
5	Frinters, - -	181	23 to 60 "	36.20 "
3	Physicians - -	126	26 to 53 "	42. "
3	Musicians, - -	128	30 to 66 "	42.66 "
3	Sextons, - -	170	46 to 74 "	56.66 "
4	Riggers, - -	162	25 to 58 "	40.50 "
51	Of various occu- pations, - -	2144	26 to 85 "	42. "
503		21186		42.11 "

X. *Diseases and causes of Death in Boston, from 1846 to 1851, inclusive.*

	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	Total.
Abscess,	7	5	6	5	9	32
Accidental,	39	52	63	64	36	259
Apoplexy,	22	25	20	22	27	116
Asthma,	1	7	0	3	1	12
Anemia,	0	0	0	2	4	6
Aneurism,	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bronchitis,	7	7	9	6	12	41
Burns and Scalds,	14	9	5	15	20	63
Bowels, disease of,	251	453	375	264	141	1484
" inflammation of,	58	51	37	53	62	261
Bladder, disease of,	0	0	2	2	1	5
Bones, " "	0	1	3	1	0	5
Brain, " "	11	18	32	50	45	156
" congestion of,	0	0	0	25	15	40
" inflammation of,	24	16	7	15	31	93
Consumption,	485	544	579	644	586	2838
Convulsions,	68	64	114	86	129	461
Croup,	77	102	111	72	87	449
Cancer,	19	13	22	18	29	101
Cholera,	0	0	0	611	1	612
" morbus,	24	2	7	47	7	87
" infantum,	108	23	59	60	36	286
Chorea,	0	0	1	0	1	2
Canker,	19	28	35	30	36	148
Cyanosis,	0	0	0	4	1	5
Colic,	2	4	0	0	0	6
Child-bed diseases,	42	36	61	72	56	267
Cramp,	0	2	2	3	2	9
Chicken-pox,	2	0	0	1	1	4
Diarrhœa,	30	92	32	118	48	320
Dysentery,	52	222	278	277	136	965
Debility,	20	31	25	39	22	137
Diseases unknown,	33	10	9	60	43	155
Dyspepsia,	0	1	2	0	0	3
Dropsy,	59	59	61	74	72	325

Diseases and causes of Death—continued.

	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	Total.
Dropsy of brain,	117	130	114	157	157	675
Drowned,	29	22	32	31	23	137
Delirium tremens,	8	11	6	12	12	49
Drinking cold water,	0	1	4	14	1	20
Diabetes,	2	2	2	4	1	11
Epilepsy,	1	1	1	6	2	11
Executed,	0	0	0	1	1	2
Erysipelas,	15	7	20	59	65	166
Exhaustion,	0	0	0	0	14	14
Fistula,	1	0	0	0	0	1
Fever,	12	8	17	21	16	74
“ scarlet,	106	59	177	317	69	728
“ lung,	146	153	122	152	165	738
“ typhus,	133	666	288	119	61	1237
“ brain,	18	27	12	32	19	108
“ typhoid,	0	0	0	30	43	73
“ rheumatic,	0	5	2	7	9	23
Fracture,	0	0	1	1	2	4
* Gout,	0	0	0	0	2	2
Hemorrhage,	8	9	12	15	9	53
Hooping cough,	38	36	33	36	81	224
Homicide,	0	1	8	1	0	10
Hernia,	4	4	1	0	1	10
Heart, disease of,	42	58	62	82	52	296
Hip, “ “	3	4	6	5	1	19
Influenza,	3	10	5	8	6	32
Intussusception,	0	0	0	0	1	1
Intemperance,	29	26	21	15	12	103
Infantile diseases,	198	248	277	328	251	1302
Kidneys, disease of,	9	10	8	6	5	38
Lock jaw,	1	2	2	0	0	5
Liver, disease of,	29	21	18	16	29	113
Lungs, inflammation of,	88	40	68	113	125	434
“ diseases of,	2	4	6	16	6	34
Malformation,	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mortification,	7	4	6	1	10	28

Diseases and causes of Death—continued.

	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	Total.
Marasmus,	53	104	68	79	91	395
Measles,	150	15	16	209	75	465
Neuralgia,	1	0	2	1	2	6
Old age,	75	75	64	95	80	389
Phlegmasia Dolens,	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pleurisy,	18	34	22	25	17	116
Palsy,	30	25	31	27	33	146
Purulent Absorption,	0	0	0	1	0	1
Poison,	0	2	4	1	3	10
Piles,	0	1	0	0	0	1
Peritonitis,	0	0	0	6	7	13
Perpura,	0	0	1	1	3	5
Pustule malignant,	0	0	0	1	0	1
Quincy,	2	5	1	3	3	14
Rheumatism,	6	2	3	3	3	17
Spine, disease of,	6	4	13	8	12	43
Scrofula,	12	10	7	19	8	56
Suffocation,	0	1	0	2	5	8
Stomach, disease of,	1	2	7	9	5	24
“ inflammation of,	10	2	1	5	2	20
Syphilis,	1	0	5	4	3	13
Strangulation,	0	1	3	0	3	7
Scurvy,	0	0	0	1	0	1
Suicide,	14	10	12	11	12	59
Starvation on ship board,	0	0	0	3	0	3
Small pox,	92	23	21	21	192	349
Teething,	51	62	81	161	108	463
Tumor,	17	13	10	17	17	74
Throat, disease of,	12	0	11	6	14	43
Uterus, disease of,	1	1	3	0	0	5
Ulcers,	5	7	6	4	6	28
Worms,	5	7	6	7	14	39
White swelling,	0	1	3	0	0	4
	<hr/> 3086	<hr/> 3853	<hr/> 3664	<hr/> 5079	<hr/> 3667	<hr/> 19349

XI. *Abstract of the causes of Death in Boston, from 1846 to 1850, inclusive, as classed by Mr. Shattuck and in State Reports.*

All causes,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,349
Specified causes,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,194

1. Zymotic, or Epidemic, Endemic, and Contagious Diseases, - - - - - 6,232

SPORADIC DISEASES.

2.	Of uncertain seat,	-	-	-	-	-	2,349
3.	“ Nervous System,	-	-	-	-	-	1,731
4.	“ Respiratory Organs,	-	-	-	-	-	4,270
5.	“ Organs of Circulation,	-	-	-	-	-	303
6.	“ “ of Digestion,	-	-	-	-	-	2,762
7.	“ Urinary Organs,	-	-	-	-	-	54
8.	“ Organs of Generation,	-	-	-	-	-	273
9.	“ “ of Locomotion,	-	-	-	-	-	111
10.	“ Integumentary System,	-	-	-	-	-	35
11.	“ Old Age,	-	-	-	-	-	389
12.	“ External causes,	-	-	-	-	-	685

Total, - - - - - - 19,194

XII. *Birth Places of the Dead, of 1850.*

	Of American Origin.	Of Foreign Origin.
Boston, - - - - -	965	939
Massachusetts, out of Boston, - -	330	
Maine, - - - - -	150	
New Hampshire, - - - - -	100	
Vermont, - - - - -	26	
Connecticut, - - - - -	14	
Rhode Island, - - - - -	18	
Middle, Southern, and Western States,	77	
England, - - - - -	-	49
Scotland, - - - - -	-	22
Ireland, - - - - -	-	803
France, - - - - -	-	9
Spain and Portugal, - - - - -	-	2
Germany and Northern Europe,	-	35
British American Provinces, - -	-	84
Other Foreign Countries, - - - -	-	18
At Sea, - - - - -	5	
Unknown, - - - - -	21	
	<hr/> 1706	<hr/> 1961

So far as the above relates to the parentage of those born in Boston, it must be regarded only as an approximation, it being impossible, in many instances, to ascertain the facts. Probably the Americans are stated too high, and the foreign too low.

XIII. *Statement showing the Births, Intentions of Marriage entered, Marriages recorded, and Deaths, for each month of the year, 1850.*

Month.	Births.	Intentions of Marriage entered.	Marriages recorded.	Deaths.
January, - -	369	215	168	313
February, - -	352	101	151	294
March, - - -	453	158	74	350
April, - - -	415	147	185	296
May, - - -	435	242	266	301
June, - - -	416	229	228	279
July, - - -	493	216	209	271
August, - - -	434	209	190	396
September, - -	489	221	235	328
October, - -	466	282	272	261
November, - -	480	323	324	269
December, - -	477	214	165	309
Total, - -	5279	2557	2467	3667

The following Nomenclature is recommended by the Commissioners on the Sanitary Survey of the State.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>I. <i>Zymotic Diseases.</i>
 1. Cholera,
 2. Cholera Infantum,
 3. Croup,
 4. Diarrhœa,
 5. Dysentery,
 6. Erysipelas,
 7. Fever, Intermittent
 8. Fever, Remittent,
 9. Fever, Typhus,
 10. Hooping Cough,
 11. Influenza,
 12. Measles,
 13. Scarlatina,
 14. Small-Pox,
 15. Syphilis,
 16. Thrush.
 SPORADIC DISEASES.
 II. <i>Uncertain Seat.</i>
 17. Abscess,
 18. Atrophy,
 19. Cancer,
 20. Debility,
 21. Dropsy,
 22. Gout,
 23. Hæmorrhage,
 24. Infantile Disease,
 25. Inflammation,
 26. Malformation,
 27. Mortification,
 28. Scrofula,
 29. Sudden,
 30. Tumor,
 III. <i>Nervous Organs.</i>
 31. Apoplexy,
 32. Cephalitis,
 33. Chorea,
 34. Convulsions,
 35. Delirium Tremens,
 36. Epilepsy,
 37. Hydrocephelus,
 38. Insanity,</p> | <p>39. Paralysis,
 40. Tetanus,
 41. Organs, disease of,
 IV. <i>Organs of Circulation.</i>
 42. Aneurism,
 43. Pericarditis,
 44. Organs, disease of,
 V. <i>Respiratory Organs.</i>
 45. Asthma,
 46. Bronchitis,
 47. Consumption,
 48. Hydrothorax,
 49. Laryngitis,
 50. Pleurisy,
 51. Pneumonia,
 52. Organs, disease of,
 VI. <i>Digestive Organs.</i>
 53. Ascites,
 54. Bowels, disease of,
 55. Colic,
 56. Dyspepsia,
 57. Enteritis,
 58. Gastritis,
 59. Hernia,
 60. Intussusception,
 61. Peritonitis,
 62. Quinoy,
 63. Stomach, dis. of,
 64. Teething,
 65. Ulceration,
 66. Worms,
 67. Hepatitis,
 68. Jaundice,
 69. Liver, dis. of,
 70. Pancreas, dis. of,
 71. Spleen, dis. of,
 VII. <i>Urivative Org.</i>
 72. Cystitis,
 73. Diabetes,
 74. Gravel,</p> | <p>75. Kidney, dis. of,
 76. Nephritis,
 77. Organs, dis. of,
 VIII. <i>Generative Organs.</i>
 78. Childbirth,
 79. Paramenia,
 80. Puerperal Fever,
 81. Organs, dis. of,
 IX. <i>Locomotive Org.</i>
 82. Rheumatism,
 83. Joints, &c., dis. of,
 84. Hip, dis. of,
 85. Spine, dis. of,
 X. <i>Integumentive Org.</i>
 86. Fistula,
 87. Purpura,
 88. Ulcer,
 89. Skin, dis. of,
 XI. <i>Age.</i>
 90. Old age,
 XII. <i>External Causes.</i>
 91. Accident,
 92. Burns and Scalds,
 93. Drowning,
 94. Execution,
 95. Freezing,
 96. Glanders,
 97. Heat,
 98. Hydrophobia,
 99. Intemperance,
 100. Lightning,
 101. Malpractice,
 102. Murder,
 103. Necusia,
 104. Poison,
 105. Starvation,
 106. Suffocation,
 107. Suicide,
 108. Wounds,
 109. <i>Unknown</i>,
 110. <i>Still born.</i></p> |
|---|---|---|

REPORT
BY THE
CITY REGISTRAR
OF THE
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES,
AND
DEATHS,
IN THE
CITY OF BOSTON,
FOR THE YEAR
1851.



BOSTON:

1852.

J. H. EASTBURN, CITY PRINTER

City Document—No. 7.

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BOSTON:

1852.

J. H. EASTBURN, CITY PRINTER.

In Board of Mayor and Aldermen,

January 26, 1852.

Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Attest:

S. F. McCLEARY, JR., *City Clerk.*

City Registrar's Office, January 26th, 1852.

TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL:

In obedience to the City Ordinance establishing this department, the accompanying Tables and explanations, in relation to the Births, Marriages and Deaths in Boston during the year 1851, are submitted.

Five thousand three hundred and thirty-eight births have been registered, namely, 2788 males and 2550 females; children of 1757 American fathers and 1805 American mothers; and of 3392 fathers and 3372 mothers of foreign birth; the nativity of 149 fathers and 121 mothers being unknown.

The intentions of marriage of two thousand nine hundred and fifty-three couples have been entered, and certificates issued; namely, 1382 male and 1366 female Americans; and 1571 males and 1587 females, natives of foreign countries.

Two thousand eight hundred and sixty-three marriages have been recorded, the parties being in about the same proportion as to their origin.

Three thousand eight hundred and fifty-five deaths, which occurred within the limits of the City, have been registered; namely, 1966 males and 1889 females, 1723 being of American, and 2122 of foreign origin, as nearly as can be ascertained.

Copies of the records of births, marriages and deaths, generally with particulars of date, name, age, sex, condition, locality, nativity and parentage, have been prepared, in compliance with law, for the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Full indices of the names of the persons born, married and deceased are also made.

The amount of fees collected, mostly in sums of fifty cents, and paid to the City Treasurer is three thousand two hundred and ninety-eight dollars and twenty-five cents.

An act of the last Legislature imposes on municipal authorities the duty of providing "a place for the safe keeping and preservation of public records," and also provides "that records which have become worn, mutilated or illegible, shall be transcribed, certified and preserved." The safe in this office not being of sufficient size to contain the record books, a new one has been added, so that now all important records and papers may be considered secure from the elements.

Some progress has been made in transcribing the early and worn records. In this labor, the assistance of Hon. James Savage and Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, M. D., both eminent antiquarians and genealogists, is gratefully acknowledged. The latter gentleman, in particular, has cheerfully devoted much time in decyphering ancient and almost illegible chirography.

In obedience to an order of the City Council, requiring indices to certain record books to be made, eight considerable volumes, containing some 100,000 names, have been prepared by careful and competent clerks. These indexes will greatly facilitate future investigations.

It was remarked in a former Report that there were great deficiencies in former records, particularly an entire omission of marriages from 1751 to 1761. The ministers of King's Chapel, New North and New South Churches, have kindly allowed copies to be taken of 732 marriages, found on their church books for that period; and it is hoped that additions may yet be made from

existing records, of some at least, of the other eleven churches of that time.

The duty of this department is supposed to be, to collect, arrange, record, and preserve the evidence of vital facts; not to indulge in theories and speculations, derived from partial and uncertain data. Hence, the following tabular statements are presented with only such brief remarks as seem to be required.

To procure information of births, the City has been canvassed twice, once in May and again since the 1st instant. This somewhat delicate and difficult service has been again performed, under the supervision of Mr. George Adams, as Assistant Registrar, and it is believed in a satisfactory and faithful manner. The results will be found in the following pages.

Respectfully submitted.

ARTEMAS SIMONDS, *City Registrar.*

I. * BIRTHS registered in Boston in the year 1851.

† DIVISIONS.	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total.
Males,	865	448	833	288	296	58	2788
Females,	757	427	741	265	298	52	2550
Total,	1632	875	1574	553	594	110	5338
Twins,	9	16	7	5	2	1	40

Birth Places of Parents.	Fathers.		Mothers.		Fathers.		Mothers.		Fathers.		Mothers.		Fathers.		Mothers.		Fathers.		Mothers.	
	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.
Boston,	128	152	116	149	66	98	34	67	47	55	2	7	393	528						
Massachusetts (ex- cept Boston),	135	122	160	154	99	83	72	52	90	71	2	2	558	484						
Maine,	87	104	71	86	42	67	39	41	62	79	2	2	303	379						
New Hampshire,	82	64	70	54	66	43	27	25	30	35			275	221						
Vermont,	19	21	24	9	26	18	6	4	7	8		1	82	61						
Rhode Island,	3	3	4	4	6	7	6	3	3	4			22	21						
Connecticut,	3	1	7	5	5	3	2	3	3	3		1	17	16						
Middle States,	23	17	16	26	16	10	4	8	9	6	4	2	72	69						
Southern States,	10	6	18	9	1	3	1	1	4	3		1	34	23						
Western States,			1	2						1			1	3						
British Provinces,	34	57	24	31	32	53	18	25	26	29	6	11	140	206						
England,	46	40	32	22	31	21	16	12	40	25	2	1	167	121						
Ireland,	915	942	188	197	1076	1083	277	271	216	233	77	78	2749	2804						
Scotland,	8	8	8	6	16	5	18	16	6	3	6	1	62	39						
Germany,	24	23	75	69	43	36	6	7	24	17	1	1	173	153						
France,	7	4	1	1	4	7	1	1					13	13						
Other Countries,	41	16	17	10	13	6	5		12	4			88	16						
Not stated,	58	43	27	25	25	24	16	12	16	16	7	1	149	121						
	1623	1623	859	859	1567	1567	548	548	592	592	109	109	5298	5298						

* Of these births 140 did not occur in Boston, but the parents were residing here at the time of registration; but, no doubt a greater number have taken place in the City during the time, which are not here recorded, the parties having removed previous to the canvass.

- † No. 1. Part north of State, Court and Cambridge streets.
 " 2. Part west of Washington, south of Court and Cambridge streets.
 " 3. Part east of Washington, south of State street.
 " 4. South Boston, except City Institutions.
 " 5. East Boston and Islands.
 " 6. City Institutions at South Boston and Deer Island.

RECAPITULATION.

New England States,

Fathers, 1650.

Mothers, 1710.

United States, except New England

Fathers, 107.

Mothers, 95.

Foreign Countries.

Fathers, 3392.

Mothers, 3372.

Boston, January 26th, 1852.

DEAR SIR :

The canvassing for births in Boston for the year 1851, presents a satisfactory result compared with the two preceding years.

In 1849 the births were 5068.

“ 1850 “ “ “ 5279.

“ 1851 “ “ “ 5338.

Knowing your particular desire to have complete and accurate returns, great care has been observed to strictly follow your instructions, and the statistics of the births in Boston for the last three years may be regarded as in the highest degree reliable.

Three years experience in the collections of these facts has successfully established its practicability, and I have to state, as in former communications, that the “Registration of Births” is yearly growing in favor with the citizens as its objects and uses become better known to them.

The “Table of Nativity of Parents” has been prepared with due care and accuracy.

The divisions as arranged by you last year for the City proper, cannot be improved, and should be adopted for all statistical purposes. This will appear evident upon examining “Table VII,” page 24, in your last year’s Report.

The population in Districts 1 and 3, is at the present time, the largest, but the residences in these Divis-

ions will no doubt be encroached upon by trade and commerce more than in Division 2, so that it is evident that the population of these three Districts will remain nearly equal for a long time.

Respectfully yours, &c.

GEORGE ADAMS.

To ARTEMAS SIMONDS, Esq.

City Registrar, Boston.

II. *Abstract of INTENTIONS OF MARRIAGE entered on the Records of the City of Boston, for the year 1851.*

Countries.	Males.	Females.	1st Marriage.	2d Marriage.	3d Marriage.	4th Marriage.	6th Marriage.	Under 20 years.	From 20 to 25.	From 25 to 30.	From 30 to 40.	From 40 to 50.	Over 50 years.
United States, - - -	1382	1228	137	14	2	1	17	587	443	237	65	93	Over 50 years.
England, - - -	121	1366	88	6	9	301	301	692	224	113	27	27	
Ireland, - - -	1127	73	8	1	1	16	3	46	42	21	9	9	
Scotland, - - -	42	1227	127	1	1	22	16	37	10	6	4	4	
Germany and Northern Europe, - - -	113	109	4	1	1	7	6	21	4	2	1	1	
France and Italy, - -	30	63	2	1	1	1	1	25	66	14	7	7	
British Provinces, - -	138	14	7	1	1	1	1	9	14	5	1	1	
	2953	176	8	1	1	1	1	68	45	18	5	5	
	2953	168	8	1	1	1	1	83	34	5	3	3	

III. Table shewing the MARRIAGES RECORDED in Boston for the year 1851, with the nativity of the Parties.

American Birthplaces.		Male.	Female.	Foreign Birthplaces.		Male.	Female.
Boston, - - - - -	-	232	407	Ireland, - - - - -	-	1132	1246
Massachusetts, except Boston,	-	361	278	England, - - - - -	-	115	60
Maine, - - - - -	-	264	330	Scotland, - - - - -	-	37	25
New Hampshire, - - - - -	-	173	105	France and Italy, - - - - -	-	19	8
Vermont, - - - - -	-	73	36	Spain and Portugal, - - - - -	-	4	0
Connecticut, - - - - -	-	16	3	Germany and North of Europe,	-	120	72
Rhode Island, - - - - -	-	19	5	British American Provinces, -	-	131	165
Other States, - - - - -	-	98	48	Other Foreign Countries, - -	-	21	9
		1236	1212			1579	1585

RECAPITULATION.

	Males.	Females.
Americans, - - - - -	1236	1212
Foreigners, - - - - -	1579	1585
Unknown, - - - - -	48	66
Total, - - - - -	2863	2863

In 2103 cases both parties are described as belonging to Boston.

" 385 " " " " non-residents.

" 263 " the Female a resident, the Male a non-resident.

" 112 " " Male " Female "

By a comparative table of the years 1850 and 1851, it will be seen that the intentions of marriage entered, and marriages recorded, have considerably increased. This increase is to be accounted for by several circumstances. Our population is, more than formerly, composed of young men and women. Many immigrants marry soon after their arrival. But the greatest cause may be found in the fact that recently but few go out of the State to marry, whereas in former years a large proportion went to Rhode Island and New Hampshire; and parties who do go abroad for this purpose, generally enter intentions, take certificates, and make returns for record agreeably to the law of 1850.

The remark is made with regret, that our records of a considerable number of marriages are deficient as to nativity, and several other particulars, relating to the parties, owing to the failure of the Clerks of *Salem*, and some other places, to make certificates conformably to the State form.

It is gratifying to remark in commendation of Clergymen and Magistrates who solemnize marriages, that in general, their returns are made promptly and in strict compliance with law. A few have been tardy. Such have been repeatedly reminded of their duty by circulars and written notes, which have finally brought in returns from all known to be delinquent for the last year. One reverend gentleman of high esteem, whose ill health and absence from the city formed a reasonable excuse, on returning a few certificates, writes: "I have the highest sense of the importance of correctness in the city and town records, notwithstanding my apparent inattention. I respect your perseverance, and honor your efforts to make records accurate and full, and thank you for having followed me up so closely and *ingeniously*, though I

deeply regret having added so much to your labors." From several quarters such good natured apologies have been given, with promises of future promptness. Inasmuch as certificates issued to Boston Parties greatly exceed the returns of such marriages, it must be presumed that some unknown officiators are still delinquent.

Of late, it is becoming quite common for parties residing in other parts of this State, and from other States, to take out certificates from their Town Clerks, set out on their bridal tour, and have their marriage solemnized by some of the popular Clergymen of Boston. This practice adds considerably to the labors in this office, but nothing to its revenue—the fees being paid to the clerks who grant certificates, while the record, as required by law, must be made here.

Parties intending marriage, also come from other States without evidence that they have complied with their own laws,—and some clergymen, saying that if the laws of Massachusetts do not authorize, they do not prohibit, such marriages, claim the authority to officiate for such strangers. It is easy to see that the exercise of such doubtful right may lead to serious wrong. The law of 1850 requires that a certificate shall be delivered to the minister or magistrate before he shall proceed to solemnize a marriage.

The frequent irregularities and illegalities in regard to marriages, occasioned by the amendments and modifications of the marriage laws, seem to render a revision of the same so clearly expressed that no intelligent clergyman can mistake the meaning desirable and important.

IV. *General Abstract of the BILL OF MORTALITY, 1851, as reported at the City Registrar's Office, showing the deaths each month, with the sex and ages of the deceased.*

Months.	Stillborn.	Under 1 year		1 to 2.		2 to 3.		3 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		90 to 100.		Totals.
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Jan.	31	32	32	19	24	10	8	10	8	1	7	9	3	3	6	14	20	17	14	23	6	7	6	10	6	4	2	1	0	0	0	302
Feb.	29	43	33	18	18	13	5	9	14	6	4	3	5	5	8	20	18	13	12	10	4	9	6	7	2	9	2	0	0	1	306	
March	24	33	32	14	23	18	10	12	11	8	11	1	4	7	18	23	17	14	15	7	2	11	6	7	5	1	4	0	0	326		
April,	25	20	35	15	13	6	8	7	12	8	0	7	7	8	18	26	16	18	12	10	10	6	1	7	4	5	3	4	0	1	294	
May,	13	32	27	17	18	13	4	8	14	5	7	1	2	6	5	19	22	18	16	27	16	14	7	8	6	3	9	4	2	0	1	331
June,	17	33	30	13	11	6	5	5	6	5	6	5	3	10	21	25	17	21	8	11	8	10	4	6	8	5	1	0	0	1	290	
July,	26	60	49	29	16	9	3	7	4	6	4	0	1	10	7	14	25	15	12	10	7	7	8	2	3	4	2	1	1	0	320	
Aug.	19	74	60	34	30	12	14	4	5	10	2	5	3	4	4	24	20	20	16	15	10	9	7	8	6	1	9	0	2	1	0	409
Sept.	24	67	46	32	36	4	7	4	6	4	8	1	0	10	7	23	32	18	17	14	7	3	6	4	11	4	4	0	1	0	376	
Oct.	17	34	27	23	10	8	7	6	5	3	5	3	1	3	7	29	32	11	11	7	15	8	10	8	4	2	7	1	3	0	290	
Nov.	12	33	32	17	12	9	8	7	7	6	6	2	4	8	3	14	24	19	13	20	6	13	9	3	4	5	2	1	2	0	0	289
Dec.	14	38	33	17	11	7	6	7	10	7	5	3	3	2	2	16	31	19	16	17	6	14	10	7	13	4	12	0	4	0	2	322
	251	499	436	248	222	115	85	86	92	82	74	35	36	68	71	218	300	205	181	180	111	99	99	67	80	46	73	16	23	2	6	3855

	Males.	Females.
Under 15 years,	-	-
15 to 30	1065	945
30 to 60	286	371
Over 60	484	391
	131	182
Total,	1966	1889

By taking the present bill of mortality as data, it would seem that in Boston about one fourth live less than one year; another fourth die between the ages of one and ten years. In infancy and early childhood the greater mortality is with the male sex; from ten to thirty years of age more females than males die; from thirty to sixty the mortality is greatest among males; and that a considerably larger number of females than males live to old age.

By an analysis of the ages of the deceased of 1851, it appears that the aggregate ages of 1,966 males was 38,896 years, averaging 19 years and 9 months; that of 1,889 females 40,745 years, giving an average of 21 years and 7 months, or a general average of both sexes of 20 years and 8 months. Separating those of American and foreign origin, it is found that the average of the former is about 22 years, and of the latter only a small fraction over 18 years. These averages are materially effected by the great infant mortality; 47 included in the tables lived only a day, and 201 others lived less than a month. Their lives united do not exceed that of a single pupil in a primary school.

V. *Diseases and Causes of Death in Boston in 1851.*

DISEASES.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Accidents,	5	2	8	1	6	7	4	10	5	8	5	8	69
Abscess,	0	0	2	2	3	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	13
Asthma,	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	8
Anemia,	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
Apoplexy,	3	4	0	4	3	3	1	3	3	0	4	4	32
Bowels, diseases of,	1	5	3	2	1	2	17	47	47	15	3	2	145
" inflammation of,	8	3	8	4	5	6	9	3	7	10	1	4	68
Brain, diseases of,	1	5	4	1	4	2	0	6	4	3	0	1	31
" inflammation of,	2	3	1	4	1	5	3	3	4	6	9	4	45
" congestion of,	3	1	1	2	1	0	5	2	2	2	1	0	20
Bones, disease of,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bladder, " "	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Bronchitis,	2	0	1	2	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	4	16
Burns and Scalds,	2	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	4	1	3	1	17
Consumption,	45	49	52	59	72	65	54	39	49	58	61	66	669
Convulsions,	13	12	11	10	12	14	14	11	8	8	8	12	133
Cancer,	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	0	2	1	3	2	19
Croup,	6	8	9	7	12	3	7	4	2	3	13	13	87
Canker,	2	2	2	2	4	1	0	5	3	2	0	2	25
Colic,	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Cholera,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	5
" morbus,	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	3	3	0	0	0	15
" infantum,	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	24	23	5	1	0	75
Child-birth, diseases of,	5	13	5	1	2	1	2	4	3	3	2	3	44
Diarrhœa	1	0	0	3	1	1	5	14	18	8	4	1	56
Dysentery,	5	3	9	1	1	4	16	32	35	15	7	4	132
Debility,	1	2	4	3	3	2	0	0	2	2	2	1	22
Dropsy,	6	4	4	1	4	10	1	7	2	7	1	5	52
" in the head,	10	13	19	9	13	13	11	22	11	12	15	10	158
Drowned,	2	1	0	2	8	5	9	1	1	2	6	1	38
Dyspepsia,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
Diabetes,	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	5
Diseases unknown,	6	1	3	7	2	3	1	5	1	7	9	7	52
" infantile,	20	23	18	19	17	23	27	47	38	21	27	36	316
Epilepsy,	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Erysipelas,	6	2	6	2	5	5	2	3	0	0	1	1	33
Exhaustion,	1	0	1	4	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	4	16
Fever, (not classed),	3	2	0	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	0	1	19
Fever, typhus or ship,	9	6	8	18	10	7	5	6	3	4	7	5	88
" typhoid,	4	5	2	6	4	4	3	11	8	14	14	7	82
" scarlet,	11	4	7	3	5	5	5	4	0	0	2	4	50
Fracture,	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	10

V. *Diseases and Causes of Death in Boston in 1851.*

DISEASES.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Frost bite,	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Gravel,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Gastritis,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	5
Hemorrhage,	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	11
Homicide,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	5
Whooping Cough,	8	8	6	7	5	1	3	3	4	4	3	2	54
Heart, disease of,	5	7	13	5	11	5	8	6	6	4	7	9	86
Hip, " "	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Hernia,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Influenza,	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Intemperance,	3	0	0	2	4	2	1	0	2	0	2	1	17
Inflammation,	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	8
Kidneys, disease of,	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
Liver, " "	1	1	5	2	2	5	0	2	3	3	0	4	28
Lockjaw,	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lungs, inflammation of,	33	30	30	18	24	21	10	10	9	14	27	36	262
" congestion of,	0	1	4	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	12
Mortification,	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Marasmus,	9	6	6	10	10	12	9	9	9	10	7	9	106
Measles,	26	35	29	19	19	5	3	4	3	1	1	0	145
Neuralgia,	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Old Age,	2	5	11	14	9	5	7	5	3	5	2	11	79
Pleurisy,	1	1	2	4	3	2	3	2	1	0	1	0	20
Palsy,	0	4	3	2	1	3	1	4	2	1	4	3	28
Poison,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
Peritonitis,	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	6
Purpura,	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3
Polypus,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rheumatism,	4	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	3	13
Spine, disease of,	2	1	2	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	11
Scrofula,	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	4	1	13
Suffocation,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
Syphilis,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Suicide,	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	2	7
Smallpox,	4	9	8	9	10	10	3	4	0	1	2	3	63
Teething,	7	6	6	5	6	1	21	23	22	6	7	6	116
Tumor,	1	2	0	0	1	3	1	2	0	1	1	1	13
Throat, disease of,	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	6
Ulcers,	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Worms,	1	0	2	0	1	3	1	1	3	2	0	0	14
Womb, disease of,	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	4
	302	306	326	294	331	290	320	409	376	290	289	322	3855

VI. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT *of the Principal Causes of Death*
in Boston in 1850 and 1851.

	1850.	1851.
Accidents, - - - - -	36	69
Apoplexy, - - - - -	27	32
Burns and Scalds, - - - - -	20	17
Bowels, diseases of, - - - - -	396	421
Brain, " " - - - - -	110	96
Consumption, - - - - -	586	669
Convulsions, - - - - -	129	131
Croup, - - - - -	87	86
Cancer, - - - - -	29	19
Cholera Infantum, - - - - -	36	75
Canker, - - - - -	36	25
Debility, - - - - -	22	22
Dropsy, - - - - -	72	52
" in the head, - - - - -	157	158
Drowned, - - - - -	23	38
Erysipelas, - - - - -	65	33
Fever, Scarlet, - - - - -	69	50
" Typhus, - - - - -	61	88
" Typhoid, - - - - -	43	82
Hooping Cough, - - - - -	81	54
Heart, disease of, - - - - -	52	86
Infantile, diseases not defined, - - - - -	251	314
Liver, disease of, - - - - -	29	28
Lungs, inflammation of - - - - -	290	262
Marasmus, - - - - -	91	106
Measles, - - - - -	75	145
Old Age, - - - - -	80	79
Palsy, - - - - -	33	28
Smallpox, - - - - -	192	63
Teething, - - - - -	108	116
Various other causes, - - - - -	381	411
	<hr/> 3667	<hr/> 3855

In the preceding catalogue of diseases, some changes have been made from former Reports, principally by omitting the terms lung fever, brain fever, and rheumatic fever, now included with inflammation of the lungs, inflammation of the brain, and rheumatism. Child birth diseases include deaths by puerperal fever; infantile diseases, two by cyanosis and diseases of the bowels and one by intussusception.

Under the present system of reporting causes of death, by funeral undertakers and friends of the deceased, second-hand from physicians, or in many cases where no regular physician was consulted, there must be much imperfection in stating the causes. In some places in Europe and this country, no interment can take place, until the cause of death has been certified by a physician. There is no law of this State requiring such certificate. Some years since, it is understood an attempt was made in this City, by furnishing physicians with blanks, to procure accurate returns, but for some cause, it was unsuccessful.

Happily for another year, our City has been mercifully preserved from any sweeping pestilence. The usual epidemics, measles, hooping cough, scarlatina, and dysentery have prevailed, but not with remarkable severity. Casualties, mostly on the several Railroads, have destroyed an unusual number of lives. The reported number of deaths by consumption is high, but it is believed that many of these for the reason stated above, ought to have been charged to other causes. It is probable that deaths caused primarily, if not immediately, by improper and vicious indulgences, are sometimes set down in a wrong place in the catalogue.

VII. STATEMENT showing the aggregate and average ages of 1202 men who died in 1850 and 1851, and whose professions and occupations were ascertained.

No.	Profession or Occupation.	Aggregate Ages.	Ages ranging from	Average Ages.
459	Laborers, - -	18,434	15 to 87	40.16 years.
116	Mariners, - -	4,302	18 " 90	37.09 "
66	Carpenters, - -	3,123	22 " 87	47.32 "
49	Clerks, - - -	1,648	15 " 68	33.63 "
51	Merchants, - -	2,623	25 " 86	52.21 "
58	Traders, - - -	2,634	20 " 91	45.41 "
30	Tailors, - - -	1,156	18 " 71	38.53 "
22	Shoemakers, - -	1,085	22 " 85	49.31 "
34	Teamsters, - -	1,335	19 " 69	39.26 "
25	Blacksmiths, - -	948	20 " 68	37.92 "
16	Farmers, - - -	929	21 " 82	50.06 "
14	Gentlemen, - -	791	33 " 89	56.50 "
21	Masons, - - -	950	19 " 77	45.23 "
7	Clergymen, - -	385	40 " 80	55.00 "
8	Coopers, - - -	424	29 " 79	53.00 "
6	Butchers, - - -	215	19 " 50	35.83 "
9	Barbers, - - -	388	30 " 60	43.11 "
19	Painters, - - -	881	19 " 82	46.36 "
4	Cabinet-makers, -	166	32 " 60	41.50 "
12	Printers, - - -	437	23 " 60	36.41 "
9	Physicians, - -	381	26 " 59	42.33 "
7	Musicians, - - -	253	20 " 66	36.14 "
4	Sextons, - - -	256	46 " 86	64.00 "
4	Riggers, - - -	162	25 " 58	40.50 "
8	Tin and Coppersmiths,	416	19 " 79	52.00 "
5	Bakers, - - -	197	20 " 52	39.40 "
4	Stablers, - - -	145	23 " 45	36.25 "
135	Of various occupations,	5,545	18 " 85	41.07 "
1202		50,209		41.77 "

459 18 434 / 40.16

16.36

7.40

4.52

VIII. *Showing the DEATHS IN BOSTON, on each day of the year 1851, as reported by Funeral Undertakers and others.*

Day.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
1	16	10	10	11	7	8	8	13	13	7	9	8
2	12	11	9	9	8	9	6	14	10	12	13	9
3	7	9	11	10	13	12	9	17	16	9	5	15
4	11	13	13	8	12	9	6	15	15	8	13	11
5	11	9	12	11	8	4	9	16	9	8	10	11
6	15	13	12	15	8	9	14	11	11	12	12	10
7	8	10	8	6	22	9	9	9	14	12	3	17
8	5	12	17	17	13	4	5	15	12	5	13	10
9	12	12	12	9	9	8	5	15	16	10	12	15
10	7	22	8	7	14	15	6	15	10	4	10	9
11	11	6	8	12	9	9	7	5	19	9	8	8
12	8	13	5	9	10	13	6	9	11	14	12	11
13	8	10	13	6	7	4	10	19	17	10	6	13
14	8	10	8	8	16	7	11	16	9	2	14	6
15	9	12	10	13	8	7	9	14	13	9	6	9
16	4	11	7	6	7	12	11	11	12	6	17	7
17	6	5	9	9	10	10	9	16	14	6	6	5
18	16	8	11	7	7	18	13	5	16	10	3	13
19	7	10	11	12	12	9	22	14	15	9	9	13
20	13	12	12	12	11	14	11	21	12	15	11	5
21	11	8	9	11	9	10	17	15	19	12	12	6
22	7	12	10	9	8	7	8	7	12	12	10	10
23	10	12	13	6	17	9	17	22	13	8	7	13
24	9	14	4	8	7	10	14	16	7	14	9	7
25	20	11	8	11	8	13	11	18	9	6	10	7
26	8	8	9	15	14	6	16	8	9	5	13	15
27	14	11	21	10	14	11	13	8	14	13	11	8
28	3	12	9	12	12	6	4	5	12	10	7	10
29	4	0	8	8	11	11	15	14	8	14	7	19
30	12	0	15	7	10	17	12	11	9	8	11	8
31	10	0	14	0	10	0	7	15	0	11	0	14
	302	306	326	294	331	290	320	409	376	290	289	322

IX. *Showing the NATIVITY or PARENTAGE of the persons who died in Boston in 1850 and 1851, as nearly as can be ascertained.*

	1850.		1851.	
	American Origin.	Foreign Origin.	American Origin.	Foreign Origin.
Boston, - - - - -	965	939	966	1087
Massachusetts, except Boston, - - -	330	-	355	-
Maine, - - - - -	150	-	137	-
New Hampshire, - - - - -	100	-	101	-
Vermont, - - - - -	26	-	32	-
Connecticut, - - - - -	14	-	17	-
Rhode Island, - - - - -	18	-	11	-
Middle, Southern and Western States, -	77	-	82	-
England, - - - - -	-	49	-	85
Scotland, - - - - -	-	22	-	21
Ireland, - - - - -	-	803	-	834
France, - - - - -	-	9	-	7
Spain and Portugal, - - - - -	-	2	-	2
Germany and North of Europe, - - -	-	35	-	28
British American Provinces, - - -	-	84	-	95
Other Foreign Countries, - - - - -	-	18	-	13
At Sea, - - - - -	5	-	3	-
Unknown, - - - - -	21	-	29	-
	1706	1961	1733	2122

X. *Summary Statement of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES and DEATHS, in Boston for five years, ending December 31, 1851.*

Years.	Estimated Population except 1850.	Births recorded.	Intentions of Marriages Entered.	Marriages Recorded.	Deaths,		Total No. Deaths.	Proportion to Population.	
					Male.	Female.		One in	In 100
1847	124,099	32	2227	836	2077	1776	3853	32	3.10
1848	128,976	23	2554	821	1915	1749	3664	35	2.84
1849	133,892	5081	2287	1167	2604	2475	5079	26	3.79
1850	138,788	5279	2557	* 2532	1887	1780	3667	38	2.64
1851	143,672	5338	2953	2863	1966	1899	3865	38	2.68

* Including sixty-five returned since last year's Report.

XI. *Statement showing the BIRTHS, INTENTIONS OF MARRIAGE ENTERED, MARRIAGES RECORDED, and DEATHS, for each month of years 1850 and 1851.*

Months.	Births.		Intentions of Marriage.		Marriages Recorded.		Deaths.	
	1850.	1851.	1850.	1851.	1850.	1851.	1850.	1851.
January, - - -	369	434	215	263	168	281	313	302
February, - - -	352	397	101	223	151	253	294	306
March, - - -	453	499	158	133	74	168	350	326
April, - - -	415	408	147	222	190	197	296	294
May, - - -	435	405	242	286	271	267	301	331
June, - - -	416	424	229	216	231	223	279	290
July, - - -	493	458	216	246	212	228	271	320
August, - - -	434	478	209	214	193	226	396	409
September, - - -	489	439	221	306	235	251	328	376
October, - - -	466	448	282	316	277	300	261	290
November, - - -	480	456	323	309	348	320	269	289
December, - - -	477	492	214	219	182	149	309	322
Totals, - - -	5279	5338	2557	2953	*5232	2863	3667	3855

* Including sixty-five returned since last year's Report.

XII. *POPULATION, BIRTHS and DEATHS in several sections of the City in 1850 and 1851.*

Sections.	Popula- tion in 1850.	Births.		Deaths.	
		1850.	1851.	1850.	1851.
1.—Part north of State, Court and Cambridge streets, - - - -	42,438	1,618	1,632	982	1,045
2.—Part west of Washington and south of Court and Cambridge streets, - -	33,668	952	875	696	708
3.—Part east of Washington and south of State streets, - - - -	39,522	1,716	1,574	959	979
4.—South Boston, except City Institutions, - - - -	13,309	487	553	281	313
5.—East Boston and Islands, - - - -	9,851	408	594	224	281
6.—City Institutions at South Boston and Deer Island, - - - -		98	110	454	433
7.—Massachusetts General Hospital, -				71	96
	138,788	5,279	5,338	3,667	3,855

During the last summer a gentleman of the medical profession in this City, interested in sanitary investigations, from data derived from the State census of 1850, and the records of places of death in this office, prepared a statement of the comparative mortality in three different Sections of the City in that year, and the results of his investigations appeared in an able article in the North American Review of July last. The First Section, with a population of 2054 Americans and 561 foreigners, lies between Beacon and Pinckney streets, extending from the State House to Charles street, regarded as a location highly favorable to health, where the deaths were 1 in 74.7 of the inhabitants. The next Section taken, was the "Back Bay," between Pleasant street and the marsh, extending from the Providence Railroad Station to West Orange street, containing a population of 3773 Americans and 1348 foreigners. Here the mortality was 1 in 52.7 of the inhabitants. The last District comprises Broad, Cove and Sea streets, with 75 American and 2813 foreign population. In this Section the deaths were 1 in 17.6. From the difficulty of ascertaining in all cases the locality of deaths, this statement may not be correct, but it is believed to be a close approximation to the facts.

By a similar examination for 1851, it would seem that the deaths in the several Sections named, were in like striking disproportion.

This statement unaccompanied by other facts, would naturally be regarded as showing in the Broad and Sea street Section a frightful mortality; but the truth is, the births are in nearly the same ratio; the great number of births accounting for the excess of deaths, according to the well known law of vital statistics, that where there are most births, there is the greater mortality.

INTERMENTS.

During the last year only about one-fifth of those who died in Boston have been interred in the City proper, and many of these will be removed to family Cemeteries out of town. In numerous instances the owners of tombs in the old Burying Grounds have discontinued interments therein, and provided resting places for their dead at Mount Auburn and elsewhere.

It is satisfactory to observe the increased interest taken by our citizens of all classes in providing family burying places for the dead in rural Cemeteries. Many have lots tastefully and appropriately arranged at Mount Auburn and Forest Hills, Roxbury. These cemeteries are well established, and reflect great credit on their past and present Managers.

Great expense has been incurred by the Proprietors of the new "Woodlawn Cemetery" at Malden, in preparing their extensive grounds, and interments have been commenced.

Another large lot, in the hands of a respectable Company, situated in Dorchester and Roxbury, will, it is understood, soon be prepared as a Cemetery. The latter will accommodate families at the south part of the City, and the former those of the north; especially such as find it inconvenient to pay for the higher priced lots at Mount Auburn and Forest Hills. A portion of our foreign population have also established a new Cemetery in Dorchester.

In the past autumn the Old Granary Ground has been essentially improved by the removal of unsightly

and unsuitable trees, and more appropriate ornamental trees and shrubbery have been substituted. Convenient gravel walks have also been prepared. It has been requested by respectable citizens that this and the Old Burying Ground on the Common, when provided in like manner with walks, may be open, under proper regulations and at suitable times, to the public.

REPORT
BY THE
CITY REGISTRAR
OF THE
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES,
AND
DEATHS,
IN THE
CITY OF BOSTON,
FOR THE YEAR
1852.



BOSTON:
1853.
J. H. EASTBURN, CITY PRINTER.

City Document.—No. 10.

REPORT

BY THE

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FOR THE YEAR

1852.



BOSTON:

1853.

J. H. EASTBURN, CITY PRINTER.

In Board of Mayor and Aldermen, Jan. 31, 1853.

Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Attest: S. F. McCLEARY, JR., *City Clerk.*

REPORT.

CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, }
January 27th, 1853. }

TO THE HON. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL :

In compliance with the Ordinance concerning the registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths, the following tabular statements, relating to the vital statistics of Boston for the year 1852, with explanations and remarks, are respectfully presented.

Five thousand three hundred and eight Births have been registered, namely, 2651 males, and 2657 females ; children of 1681 American fathers and 1733 American mothers ; and of 3479 fathers and 3451 mothers of foreign nativity ; the birth places of 96 fathers and 72 mothers being unknown.

The Intentions of Marriage of two thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven couples have been entered and certificates issued ; namely, 1356 male and 1347 female Americans, and 1521 males and 1530 females, of foreign birth.

Two thousand six hundred and eighty-six actual marriages have been recorded, the parties being in nearly the same proportions as to origin.

Three thousand seven hundred and thirty-six deaths

have been registered ; namely, 1902 males and 1834 females, 1568 being of American and 2168 of foreign origin, as nearly as can be ascertained.

The usual full copies of the records of Births, Marriages and Deaths, are prepared for the office of the Secretary of State, and indexes are made for this office.

Fees, for entering Intentions of Marriage, and issuing certificates, and on account of the funeral department, amounting to three thousand two hundred and forty-nine dollars, seventy-five cents, have been collected for the City Treasury.

Statistical tables and observations under the several heads of Births, Marriages, Deaths, Burial Places, Comparisons with Past Years, Old Records, and Massachusetts Registration, will be found in the following pages.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ARTEMAS SIMONDS.

BIRTHS.

The collection of Births for registration has been again made by Mr. George Adams, with his accustomed interest and faithfulness. With such an ever-changing population as that of Boston, it is not to be expected that every birth can be ascertained, or that names, dates and other particulars, can always be stated with minute accuracy, but it is believed that the work of Mr. Adams, and his civil and well-trained canvassers, is well performed. Mr. Adams has accompanied his tabular statement for 1852, with the following remarks:—

“It is again my pleasure to report to you the number and particulars of Births in Boston for another year. During the last four years the City has been canvassed in May and January for the information required by law. The following statement shows the numbers each year:—

“In 1849, 5068; 1850, 5279; 1851, 5338: 1852, 5308; which is an average increase of 60 each year—the greatest variation being 211, the least 30; and presenting a remarkable confirmation of the uniform completeness and accuracy of these canvassings—especially when it is considered that a large proportion of the Births occur among the foreign population, many of whom often change their residences. The thoroughness required by your explicit instructions, together with the strong desire that these repeated canvassings should be executed in so careful a manner as to establish reliable data, has no doubt tended materially to produce the gratifying result. It can be said without boasting, that it will be difficult to find statistics collected for a series of years from so large a number of *individuals* and from such a population, with the same triumphant success.

Another pleasing feature of the work is the increasing interest manifested by the citizens in these Registrations.

"While no difficulty is met in obtaining the necessary information, we have often been delayed by parents insisting upon our instituting inquiries respecting the Registration of children whom they are apprehensive have not had their names recorded in former years."

In recording births, it is a rule to write out all the given names in full, and the record books are prepared for this purpose with a large space in the column for names. The whimsical fancy of some parents causes amusement, but more labor and annoyance to clerks. Not a few pile on three or four given names, the accumulation being as ludicrous as Goldsmith's "Caroline Amelia Wilhelmina Skeggs." It would seem that the next generation will have few such plain names as John Smith and Mary Brown, but each cognomen must have some half dozen initial prefixes. Do parents consider when giving their children so many names, how much inconvenience, if not ridicule, may be entailed on their innocent offspring?

It will be seen that the females born in 1852 exceed the males by six, a result so unexpected that a re-examination of the original canvasser's minutes have been made, but without discovering error. In former years the preponderance has been strongly with males. During the four years past the births have been, 10,712 males, and 10,281 females. In England, from 1839 to 1845, 10,515 boys were born to every 10,000 girls.

I. BIRTHS *Registered in Boston, in the year 1852.*

† DIVISIONS.	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total.
Males,.....	771	477	815	286	244	58	2651
Females,.....	778	484	831	258	249	57	2657
Total,.....	1549	961	1646	544	493	115	5308
Twins,.....	16	13	16	4	2	1	52
Colored,.....	7	29				1	37
Born out of Boston,	56	23	58	17	32		186

Birth Places of Parents.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Total Fathers.	Total Mothers.
Boston,.....	100	150	123	162	73	88	48	69	30	46	1	3	375	518
Massachusetts (out of Boston),....	133	115	149	131	82	69	49	40	62	53	0	1	475	409
Maine,.....	100	122	74	107	37	68	31	44	46	58	2	1	290	400
New Hampshire, .	88	65	89	62	54	39	28	19	22	25	2	1	283	211
Vermont,.....	29	17	30	13	22	12	7	3	8	3	0	1	96	49
Connecticut,....	5	4	9	6	6	4	3	2	2	2	1	0	26	18
Rhode Island,....	2	5	7	8	3	4	2	5	1	5	0	0	15	27
Other Amer. States,	44	26	41	46	10	12	9	4	16	13	1	0	121	101
England,.....	45	46	31	24	45	29	18	15	39	31	5	6	183	151
Scotland,.....	16	6	8	7	18	11	15	9	9	4	0	0	66	37
Ireland,.....	825	859	226	227	1167	1185	283	271	192	206	92	94	1785	2842
France,.....	6	1	10	7	5	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	24	10
Germany & N. Eur.	32	19	92	87	44	36	10	10	17	13	1	1	196	166
British Provinces, .	52	61	25	35	33	52	25	38	31	25	3	6	169	217
Other Countries, .	34	17	6	5	10	4	2	2	4	0	0	0	56	28
Unknown,.....	22	20	28	21	21	15	9	9	10	7	6	0	96	72
	1533	1533	948	948	1630	1630	540	540	491	491	114	114	5256	5256

RECAPITULATION.

New England States.	Other American States.	Foreign Countries.	Unknown.
Fathers, 1560.	Fathers, 121.	Fathers, 3479.	Fathers, 96.
Mothers, 1632.	Mothers, 101.	Mothers, 3451.	Mothers, 72.

- † No. 1. Part north of State, Court and Cambridge streets.
 “ 2. Part west of Washington, south of Court and Cambridge streets.
 “ 3. Part east of Washington, south of State street.
 “ 4. South Boston, except City Institutions.
 “ 5. East Boston and Islands.
 “ 6. City Institutions at South Boston and Deer Island.

MARRIAGES.

The promptness of the regular Clergymen of Boston generally, in making Marriage Returns, in strict compliance with law, deserves commendation.

On or before the tenth of each month, most of the certificates of the preceding month are returned and recorded. Many make returns forthwith. A few seem not to appreciate the obligations of law, and need repeated calls to a compliance. Doubtless a considerable number of marriages have been solemnized in Boston during the past year which are unrecorded, the officiators being non-residents, or clergymen from abroad who do not practically regard the law of this Commonwealth.

On glancing over the Registry of Marriages for the year, some rather remarkable matrimonial alliances are noticed. The oldest bridegroom was a widower of 76 years to a widow of 43 years. The couple of the greatest united ages is an Irish widower of 65 years with a widow of 60 years. The couple of the least united ages are Irish, the bridegroom being 18 years, the bride 16 years. Two Italian girls of 14 and 15 years, the parents consenting, have been married to their countrymen of 22 and 21 years. Among such as are of quite dissimilar ages are found bridegrooms and brides of the respective ages of 40 and 19 years, 34 and 17, 37 and 17, 70 and 33, 42 and 19, 45 and 19 years. By a reference, however, to the Table of Intentions of Marriages, it will be seen that few comparatively marry in extreme youth, or in very advanced age. The first marriage of males are mostly from 21 to 30 years, of females from 18 to 28 years.

In entering Intentions of Marriage and granting certificates, the present practice in this office is in accordance with the advice of the City Solicitor, and the former usage of the City Clerk, so far as the law of 1850 agrees with the old law.

Under this practice, one or both parties must be a resident of the City, making Boston his or her home, to be entitled to a certificate. If one of the parties resides in another city or town in Massachusetts, the applicant is informed that the entry should also be made, and a certificate be obtained from the clerk in the other place.

A different, and more liberal practice prevails in some other places, where certificates are issued to non-residents. This is proved by certificates returned to this office for record, the parties having been married in Boston. The adoption of this practice here would add hundreds of dollars annually to the revenue collected in this office, and subtract from the fees of clerks elsewhere.

The different constructions now put by clerks and clergymen on the marriage laws, seem to either require their revision, or authoritative explanations of the present statutes by the Secretary or the Attorney General of the Commonwealth. It is certainly important that the laws should be construed uniformly throughout the State.

III. Table showing the MARRIAGES RECORDED in Boston for 1852, with the nativity of the Parties.

Birthplaces.		Male.	Female.	Birthplaces.		Male.	Female.
Boston, -	-	218	425	England, -	-	143	77
Massachusetts, except Boston, -	-	352	286	Scotland, -	-	38	11
Maine, -	-	230	275	Ireland, -	-	981	1121
New Hampshire, -	-	164	103	France, -	-	22	7
Vermont, -	-	76	36	Spain and Portugal, -	-	2	
Connecticut, -	-	14	10	Germany and North of Europe, -	-	131	86
Rhode Island, -	-	19	11	British American Provinces, -	-	146	152
Other States, -	-	107	52	Other Foreign Countries, -	-	25	12
At Sea, -	-	1		Unknown, -	-	17	22
		1181	1198			1505	1488

RECAPITULATION.

	Males.	Females.
Americans, -	1180	1198
Foreigners, -	1488	1466
At Sea, -	1	
Unknown, -	17	22
Total, -	2686	2686

In 1922 cases both parties are described as belonging to Boston.
 " 383 " " " " non-residents.
 " 287 " Female a resident, Male a non-resident.
 " 94 " Male " Female "

IV. *General Abstract of the BILL OF MORTALITY, 1852, as reported at the City Registrar's Office, showing the deaths each month, with the sex and ages of the deceased.*

Months.	Stillborn.	Under 1 year.		1 to 2.		2 to 3.		3 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		90 to 100.		Totals.
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Jan.	16	40	32	15	11	7	5	8	11	4	9	2	4	3	4	18	23	8	9	14	10	4	8	10	7	4	3	3	1	0	1	280
Feb.	22	30	24	14	17	5	9	7	7	5	3	1	6	4	9	9	21	10	11	16	12	11	6	7	8	7	4	0	2	0	0	263
March	26	23	24	27	17	8	5	7	7	4	4	4	2	6	8	23	29	13	14	14	10	10	8	6	9	4	6	0	1	0	0	293
April,	19	41	19	19	8	5	8	10	5	4	1	3	2	6	7	13	20	19	17	11	11	6	8	8	9	4	5	2	0	0	1	272
May,	23	28	28	10	9	5	5	6	4	4	4	4	2	3	5	13	20	14	25	13	6	7	7	8	6	4	3	1	3	0	1	242
June,	26	27	25	11	15	4	5	8	6	9	7	2	3	3	3	19	26	9	5	11	7	7	2	7	5	6	8	1	3	0	0	244
July,	19	46	58	25	23	11	6	13	10	9	10	4	2	2	5	16	13	24	15	11	12	8	6	5	4	0	2	0	1	0	1	365
Aug.	23	88	58	42	30	10	10	13	13	11	8	3	1	5	3	20	20	13	21	15	10	6	8	2	10	1	4	4	3	0	1	433
Sept.	17	58	46	29	29	15	7	10	10	6	5	1	4	5	24	23	13	26	10	9	5	7	6	5	5	5	6	1	5	0	1	372
Oct.	21	32	20	19	12	11	10	13	10	8	7	4	4	3	6	21	20	20	16	16	6	7	9	8	8	5	4	3	3	0	1	306
Nov.	7	34	27	11	8	10	14	14	10	13	14	2	2	7	7	19	26	20	15	16	10	5	10	10	12	2	9	1	1	0	1	330
Dec.	17	25	32	18	13	18	17	10	14	12	20	4	1	7	4	14	23	18	16	14	10	13	5	8	9	4	4	1	2	0	0	336
	236	467	393	240	192	109	99	118	109	89	92	34	30	53	66	208	267	170	199	165	112	93	87	88	94	51	60	17	26	0	8	3736

Females.

Males.

Under 15 years,

15 to 30

30 to 60

Over 60

915

333

398

188

1834

1057

261

428

156

1902

V. *Diseases and Causes of Death in Boston in 1852.*

DISEASES.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Asthma,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Accidents,	3	4	3	3	1	9	8	7	13	5	9	8	73
Abscess,	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	9
Anemia,	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Apoplexy,	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	4	2	1	23
Bowels, diseases of,	3	2	2	2	2	1	13	10	5	1	0	0	41
" inflammation of,	3	4	2	4	3	5	28	33	21	6	4	4	117
Brain, diseases of	3	9	1	7	1	2	2	4	3	3	0	2	37
" inflammation of,	0	1	5	4	5	4	7	5	5	5	3	3	47
" congestion of,	1	1	1	1	6	0	2	2	2	1	3	5	25
Bones, disease of,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bronchitis,	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	9
Burns and Scalds,	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	4	0	2	0	6	20
Consumption,	42	59	78	60	59	46	61	47	52	61	63	53	681
Convulsions,	10	6	7	10	8	11	17	8	11	14	10	10	122
Cancer,	2	4	1	6	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	1	32
Croup,	17	7	2	10	5	1	8	9	6	11	15	21	112
Cachexia,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Colic,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
Cholera morbus,	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	1	2	1	0	11
" infantum,	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	25	22	7	1	0	70
Catarrh,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Child-birth, diseases of,	6	6	2	2	1	4	3	7	4	7	2	3	47
Cyanosis,	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Diarrhoea,	3	1	1	1	1	2	10	20	14	0	1	2	56
Dysentery,	2	3	3	3	0	1	9	40	31	15	6	0	113
Debility,	1	1	3	0	1	4	0	2	2	0	1	2	17
Dropsy,	8	7	7	5	6	4	2	6	7	5	8	2	67
" in the head,	11	14	16	14	8	13	16	16	7	13	15	12	155
Drowned,	1	1	3	4	3	3	1	4	1	3	1	1	26
Dyspepsia,	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Diabetes,	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Diseases unknown,	3	3	2	5	3	5	8	5	2	6	8	4	54
" infantile,	29	22	20	16	24	19	32	35	29	15	23	19	283
Epilepsy,	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Erysipelas,	0	1	4	1	7	2	2	1	3	0	1	4	26
Exhaustion,	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	8
Fevers (not classed),	3	1	0	1	1	1	3	0	0	3	4	3	20
Fever, typhus or ship,	11	3	4	3	5	0	3	4	1	0	8	4	46
" typhoid,	10	2	5	2	1	4	3	3	6	11	7	12	66
" scarlet,	5	8	10	5	8	29	29	39	17	26	41	52	269
Fracture,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	184	177	190	179	164	180	292	347	276	230	250	238	2707

VI. *Diseases and Causes of Death in Boston in 1852.*

DISEASES.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Gravel,	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
Hemorrhage,	0	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	12
Homicide,	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	4
Hooping cough,	8	4	11	6	1	2	1	2	3	4	1	8	51
Heart, disease of,	6	6	8	9	8	6	5	3	4	4	12	8	79
Hæmaturia,	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hip, disease of,	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Hernia,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Influenza,	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Inhaling cloric ether,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Intemperance,	1	1	4	1	3	0	2	0	3	3	2	2	22
Kidneys, disease of,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Liver,	1	3	5	1	0	1	2	2	5	3	2	2	27
Lockjaw, " "	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lungs, inflammation of,	36	22	29	20	21	11	9	10	7	14	14	33	226
" congestion of,	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	6
Mortification,	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	9
Mania,	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	5
Marasmus,	6	9	4	8	4	8	11	19	11	5	8	3	96
Malformation,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Measles,	1	5	2	4	4	2	3	1	0	2	1	4	29
Neuralgia,	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Old age,	3	4	5	5	7	12	8	3	10	7	8	6	78
Ossification of arteries,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pleurisy,	1	1	1	7	2	0	0	0	1	4	3	4	24
Palsy,	4	2	2	6	6	3	2	3	2	4	3	2	39
Poison,	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Peritonitis,	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Purpura,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Rheumatism,	2	4	1	3	2	2	4	1	2	0	0	0	23
Spine, disease of,	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	8
Scrofula,	1	2	1	1	1	2	4	2	4	3	3	2	26
Syphilis,	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Sun stroke,	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Suicide,	1	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	8
Smallpox,	8	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Teething,	8	8	12	8	6	8	10	26	29	9	8	5	137
Tumor,	1	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	3	0	1	5	16
Throat, disease of,	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	11
Thrush,	0	3	4	1	2	1	3	6	2	1	2	3	28
Ulcers,	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Worms,	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	2	0	12
	96	86	103	93	78	64	73	86	96	76	80	98	1029
	184	177	190	179	164	180	292	347	276	230	250	238	2707
	280	263	293	272	242	244	365	433	372	306	330	336	3736

VI. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT *of the Principal Causes of Death*
in Boston in 1850, 1851 and 1852.

	1850.	1851.	1852.
Accidents, - - - - -	36	69	73
Apoplexy, - - - - -	27	32	23
Burns and Scalds, - - - - -	20	17	20
Bowels, diseases of, - - - - -	396	421	333
Brain, diseases of, - - - - -	110	96	109
Consumption, - - - - -	586	669	681
Convulsions, - - - - -	129	131	122
Croup, - - - - -	87	86	112
Cancer, - - - - -	29	19	32
Cholera Infantum, - - - - -	36	75	70
Debility, - - - - -	22	22	17
Dropsy, - - - - -	72	52	67
“ in the head, - - - - -	157	158	155
Drowned, - - - - -	23	38	26
Erysipelas, - - - - -	65	33	26
Fever, Scarlet, - - - - -	69	50	269
“ Typhus, - - - - -	61	88	46
“ Typhoid, - - - - -	43	82	66
Hooping Cough, - - - - -	81	54	51
Heart, disease of, - - - - -	52	86	79
Infantile, diseases not defined, - - - - -	251	314	283
Liver, disease of, - - - - -	29	28	27
Lungs, inflammation of, - - - - -	290	262	226
Marasmus, - - - - -	91	106	96
Measles, - - - - -	75	145	29
Old Age, - - - - -	80	79	78
Palsy, - - - - -	33	28	39
Smallpox, - - - - -	192	63	12
Teething, - - - - -	108	116	137
Thrush, - - - - -	36	25	28
Various other causes, - - - - -	381	411	404
	<hr/> 3667	<hr/> 3855	<hr/> 3736

VII. STATEMENT showing the aggregate and average ages of 667 men who died in Boston in 1852, and whose professions and occupations were ascertained.

No.	Profession or Occupation.	Aggregate Ages.	Ages ranging from	Average Ages.	
				Yrs.	Mo.
234	Laborers, - - -	9958	17 to 82	42	6
63	Mariners, - - -	2409	19 " 87	38	3
42	Carpenters, - - -	1892	20 " 75	45	00
34	Traders, - - -	1478	19 " 76	43	6
30	Clerks, - - -	897	17 " 74	29	10
25	Shoemakers, - - -	1073	17 " 79	42	11
21	Merchants, - - -	1066	21 " 88	50	9
18	Tailors, - - -	713	22 " 71	39	7
17	Blacksmiths, - - -	783	22 " 68	46	00
14	Painters, - - -	498	20 " 70	35	7
13	Teamsters, - - -	597	32 " 82	45	11
12	Farmers, - - -	557	18 " 81	46	5
9	Coopers, - - -	423	17 " 71	47	00
7	Gentlemen, - - -	545	72 " 83	79	3
6	Barbers, - - -	265	23 " 71	42	2
5	Musicians, - - -	215	23 " 72	43	00
4	Printers, - - -	129	22 " 49	32	3
3	Tin and Coppersmiths,	149	23 " 80	49	8
2	Clergymen, - - -	145	64 " 81	72	6
2	Sextons, - - -	128	53 " 75	64	00
2	Physicians, - - -	93	30 " 63	46	6
2	Bakers, - - -	63	26 " 37	31	6
2	Masons, - - -	89	44 " 55	44	6
1	Butcher, - - -	50			
1	Lawyer, - - -	64			
98	Of various occupations,	4231	19 " 87	43	2
667		28513		42	9

VIII. *Showing the NATIVITY or PARENTAGE of the persons who died in Boston in 1850, 1851 and 1852, as nearly as can be ascertained.*

	1850.		1851		1852.	
	American Origin.	Foreign Origin.	American Origin.	Foreign Origin.	American Origin.	Foreign Origin.
Boston, - - -	965	939	996	1037	881	1106
Massachusetts, (except Boston,) - - -	330	-	355	-	335	-
Maine, - - -	150	-	137	-	134	-
New Hampshire, -	100	-	101	-	93	-
Vermont, - - -	26	-	32	-	21	-
Connecticut, - -	14	-	17	-	10	-
Rhode Island, - -	18	-	11	-	15	-
Middle, Southern and Western States, -	77	-	82	-	53	-
England, - - -	-	49	-	85	-	66
Scotland, - - -	-	22	-	21	-	21
Ireland, - - -	-	803	-	834	-	803
France, - - -	-	9	-	7	-	7
Spain and Portugal, -	-	2	-	2	-	2
Germany and North of Europe, - - -	-	35	-	28	-	56
British Am. Provinces, -	-	84	-	95	-	86
Other Foreign Countries, - - -	-	18	-	13	-	21
At Sea, - - -	5	-	3	-	-	-
Unknown, - - -	21	-	29	-	26	-
	1706	1961	1733	2122	1568	2168

The mortality for the past year, being less than the average for the last five years, indicates a favorable sanitary condition. The City has been mercifully preserved by a kind Providence from sweeping pestilence. The only epidemic, which has prevailed with considerable severity has been Scarlatina, principally confined to children. Smallpox has wholly disappeared since April, and if the community will but keep alive to the sure benefits of faithful vaccination, little is to be feared from this source. Consumption continues to be the leading agent to swell our bills of mortality. It will be seen by the table of diseases that 681 of the 3736 deaths of 1852 are recorded as caused by this wasting destroyer of human life. This is about two in eleven. The victims are mostly adults, ranging from eighteen to sixty years of age, and averaging about thirty-four and a half years, viz :—

118 American males,	average age	34 years 4 months.
188 American females,	“ “ 33 “ 8 “	
173 Foreign males,	“ “ 35 “ 11 “	
202 Foreign females,	“ “ 33 “ 10 “	

It is thus seen that more females especially Americans, die of consumption than males.

The aggregate ages of the 3736 persons who died in 1852, amount to 76,506 years, showing the average of life to be about 20 years 5 months and 22 days. While about the usual proportion have lived to old age, the average is controlled and reduced by the great infant mortality, common in every place where a large foreign population is crowded into narrow limits.

IX. *Statement showing the BIRTHS, INTENTIONS OF MARRIAGE ENTERED, MARRIAGES RECORDED, and DEATHS, for each month of years 1850, 1851 and 1852.*

	Births.			Intentions of Marriage.			Marriages Recorded.			Deaths.		
	1850.	1851.	1852	1850.	1851.	1852.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1850.	1851.	1852.
January, - -	369	434	472	215	263	262	168	281	254	313	302	280
February, - -	352	397	436	101	223	217	151	253	239	294	306	263
March, - -	453	499	464	158	133	153	74	168	125	350	326	293
April, - -	415	408	440	147	222	259	190	197	222	396	294	272
May, - -	435	405	393	242	286	242	271	267	224	301	331	242
June, - -	416	424	434	229	216	222	231	223	207	379	290	244
July, - -	493	458	451	216	246	221	212	228	214	271	320	365
August, - -	434	478	464	209	214	204	193	226	203	396	409	433
September, -	489	439	404	221	306	243	235	251	236	328	376	372
October, - -	466	448	445	282	216	295	277	300	274	261	290	306
November, -	480	456	432	323	309	320	348	320	321	269	289	330
December, -	477	492	473	314	219	229	183	173	167	309	322	336
	5279	5338	5308	2557	2953	2877	2533	2887	2686	3667	3855	3736

X. *POPULATION, BIRTHS and DEATHS in several sections of the City in 1850, 1851 and 1852.*

	Popu- lation in 1850.	Births.			Deaths.		
		1850.	1851.	1852.	1850	1851	1852.
1.—Part north of State, Court and Cambridge streets. - - - -	42,438	1618	1632	1549	982	1045	1007
2.—Part west of Washington and south of Court and Cambridge streets, -	33,668	952	875	961	696	708	608
3.—Part east of Washington and south of State streets, - - - -	39,552	1716	1574	1646	959	979	1082
4.—South Boston, except City Institutions, - - - -	13,309	487	533	544	281	313	322
5.—East Boston and Islands, - - -	9,851	408	994	493	224	281	276
6.—City Institutions at South Boston and Deer Island, - - - -		98	110	115	454	433	361
7.—Massachusetts General Hospital, -		-	-	-	71	96	80
	138,788	5279	5338	5308	3667	3855	3736

XI. *Summary Statement, of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES and DEATHS, in Boston, recorded for forty-two years, ending December 31, 1852, compiled from Mr. Shattuck's Census of 1845, for the first thirty-five, and from the Records of the last seven years.*

Years.	Population.	Births Recorded.	Intentions of Marriage Entered.	Marriages Recorded.	Deaths.			Proportion to Population.	
					Males.	Females.	Total	One in	In 100.
1811	34,255	108	448	188	373	375	748	45	2.18
1812	35,260	93	451	204	286	547	633	55	1.85
1813	36,264	85	481	230	416	334	750	48	2.06
1814	37,269	98	428	306	367	328	695	53	1.86
1815	38,274	79	543	356	407	433	830	46	2.16
1816	39,275	78	603	435	440	433	873	45	2.22
1817	40,284	103	689	415	453	422	875	46	2.17
1818	41,288	85	619	452	486	439	927	44	2.23
1819	42,293	77	612	418	423	366	789	53	1.86
1820	43,298	90	698	481	505	509	1,014	42	2.31
1821	46,295	84	735	505	678	643	1,321	35	2.85
1822	49,291	80	801	623	570	518	1,088	45	2.20
1823	52,288	91	939	689	531	514	1,045	50	1.99
1824	55,284	72	979	585	623	585	1,208	45	2.18
1825	58,281	62	1,011	710	692	670	1,362	42	2.33
1826	58,903	63	1,065	747	623	544	1,167	50	1.98
1827	59,525	65	1,002	757	495	444	939	63	1.57
1828	60,147	42	1,051	742	603	556	1,159	51	1.92
1829	60,769	47	992	624	600	556	1,156	52	1.90
1830	61,392	34	927	508	532	493	1,025	59	1.66
1831	64,834	27	944	649	676	677	1,353	47	2.08
1832	68,276	27	1,075	867	840	835	1,675	40	2.45
1833	71,780	44	1,334	759	679	695	1,374	52	1.91
1834	75,160	34	1,213	786	765	675	1,440	55	1.91
1835	78,603	34	1,772	937	991	828	1,819	43	2.31
1836	79,464	68	1,582	1,024	831	817	1,648	48	2.07
1837	80,325	40	1,443	782	875	868	1,743	46	2.16
1838	81,186	48	1,356	750	937	862	1,799	45	2.21
1839	82,215	48	1,391	778	863	859	1,722	44	2.23
1840	85,000	28	1,489	756	851	890	1,841	46	2.16
1841	90,874	35	1,587	905	927	856	1,783	50	1.96
1842	96,747	22	1,729	912	1,147	1,113	2,260	42	2.33
1843	102,620	26	1,810	904	986	1,022	2,008	51	1.95
1844	108,493	15	1,987	1,029	1,015	1,039	2,054	52	1.89
1845	114,366	8	2,351	1,078	1,182	1,158	2,340	48	2.04
1846	119,203	26	2,235	966	1,614	1,472	3,086	39	2.59
1847	124,099	32	2,247	836	2,077	1,776	3,853	32	3.10
1848	128,976	23	2,554	821	1,915	1,749	3,664	35	2.84
1849	133,892	5,081	2,287	1,167	2,604	2,475	5,079	26	3.79
1850	138,788	5,279	2,557	2,533	1,887	1,780	3,667	38	2.64
1851	143,672	5,338	2,953	2,887	1,966	1,899	3,865	38	2.68
1852		5,308	2,877	2,686	1,902	1,834	3,736		

POPULATION.

It is not easy to estimate with confidence, the present population of Boston. It is well known that the residents in the City in January exceeds by many thousands the population to be found here in August. Besides the multitude, whose daily avocations are in Boston, but whose domicils are in the neighboring Cities and Towns, large numbers live *in* Boston in winter, and *out* during the summer months.

By the State Census, taken in May, 1850, the population of Boston appears to have been 138,788, and by the United States Census taken in the Summer after, but relating to June, only a month later, it is stated at 136,884, a difference of 1904. There can be no reasonable doubt, that, the former was nearer the actual average population of 1850, than the latter, and it is highly probable the average population of 1850, was 140,000, and that the present is somewhat greater. The Births and Marriages being a few less in 1852 than in 1851 would seem to be an indication that there had not been, the last year, the usual increase in the number of City residents. Perhaps this may be accounted for by the fact, that with the evident business prosperity of the City, many dwelling houses have been given up, and the premises occupied for warehouses and business purposes. At the same time, Boston capital has been invested less than usual in building dwellings within the City limits, and more for the same purpose, out of town.

A reference to the annexed tables, shows from whence

the recruits to the population come. It is seen that while the greater part are from Europe, particularly Ireland, no inconsiderable accessions are from the British Provinces, the States of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, while the States of the South and West make but scanty contributions to our community.

INTERMENTS.

The interments of the 3736 persons who died in Boston in the year 1852, have been as follows :

353	in the South Burial Ground, of which 46 are already removed.						
140	" " Copps Hill	"	"	"	4	"	"
19	" " Hull street	"	"	"	1	"	"
37	" " Granary	"	"	"	4	"	"
31	" " Chapel	"	"	"	7	"	"
61	" " Central	"	"	"	1	"	"
26	" " St. Paul Cemetery,	"	"	"	4	"	"
10	" " Trinity	"	"	"	0	"	"
9	" " Park Street	"	"	"	4	"	"
31	" " Christ Church	"	"	"	2	"	"

717

261 in the South Boston Cemeteries.

291 " " East Boston "

290 " " City Institution "

2177 removed directly to places out of the City.

Within the year 116 bodies of persons who died abroad have been deposited in family vaults in the City. On the other hand it is expected that numbers will be removed from City Tombs to rural cemeteries before the first of June next.

The removals from the City in 1832, were 9 per cent., in 1842, 34 per cent., and in 1852, 58 per cent.

In the three principal Cemeteries last established in the vicinity, viz: Forest Hills, Woodlawn and Mt. Hope, it is ascertained that citizens of Boston now own over 400 family burial lots, 221 of which have been purchased within a year. The number of lots owned at Mt. Au-

burn by Bostonians is not ascertained, but it must be between one and two thousands, and the recent sales in that Cemetery have no doubt been considerable.

In regard to the expediency and propriety of burials in private vaults in the City Proper, variant and strong opinions are held and expressed. On the one side it is said the evils resulting from such burials are of fearful magnitude—that the health of the citizens is endangered if not actually and seriously injured by the poisonous gasses which arise from decomposing bodies. The strong language employed in describing the frightful state of things existing in the London church yards, where multitudes have been buried for centuries, is here used as applicable to Boston Cemeteries.

On the other hand it is said that the vaults in the older cemeteries are the private property of families (with few exceptions;) that interments are not frequent; that no real injury is done even to those who dwell nearest them; that wealthy and intelligent families and even eminent physicians, have chosen their residences around the borders of cemeteries, or worship in churches having vaults with the dead beneath.

Perhaps the case is too strongly stated on both sides, and that a medium course may be pursued, under some revision of the regulations, and with a view to the ultimate discontinuance of intramural interments.

It has been the former policy of the Town and City to own Tombs in the several burying Grounds in Boston Proper, and receive single deposits for a fee, paid by the friends of deceased persons. Funeral undertakers and other individuals have likewise owned Tombs, which have been more or less used in the same way. Such facilities for burial are now so nearly exhausted, that families, should not rely, as many have done, on this resource. Hence the importance to heads of families, of

providing places for the burial of their dead, following the wise and appropriate example of Abraham of old.

It is gratifying to observe the change which is taking place in public sentiment on the subject of burial places for the dead. The slow, but successful experiment made at Mount Auburn has done much to promote this improved feeling in the community. A few years ago the Forest Hills Cemetery at Roxbury, another beautiful spot for burials was commenced, and quite recently the extensive Grounds of Woodlawn in Malden, and Mount Hope in Dorchester have been established. The people of Boston own a large share of the burial lots sold in all of them. These four Cemeteries embrace between four and five hundred acres—ample space to bury the dead of Boston and the vicinity for many generations.

To such as observe the revolting condition of Tombs, in which deposits have been made occasionally for fifty or a hundred years, it seems surprising that any should prefer this mode of interment to graves in the natural earth, where human remains may be forever undisturbed.

The Catholic population have, and may always be expected to provide, consecrated grounds for burials, at some distance from the City. Another large portion of the residents of Boston are from the country, and bury their dead in the rural grounds where their ancestors repose. It frequently occurs that bodies are removed several hundreds of miles. The Railroads afford facilities for this purpose.

Besides the large number of family lots recently sold in all Cemeteries in the neighborhood to citizens of Boston, another important movement, in this connection, deserves especial notice.

Religious Societies, and other associations, provide more extensive burial lots for their members and associates who may not have private places for burial. It is

to be hoped much will be done in this way. Large portions of ground for the purpose may be secured now at reasonable rates, especially in the new Cemeteries.

It is a well known fact that many deaths occur in Boston of individuals, who belong, or whose friends reside, at a distance. Arrangements cannot be made at once for removal, and as a matter of necessity, a temporary interment must be made, and it is difficult to procure a place. To meet such cases, and others where families have burial lots in preparation, but not quite ready for interments, it is suggested that one or more temporary receptacles for the dead be provided. Such receptacles it is believed could be so constructed as to be unobjectionable, and could be used under proper regulations, with manifest convenience and satisfaction to the friends of the dead.

RECORDS.

The oldest book in this office, of 254 pages, closely written in the chirography of the times, and difficult to read, contains records of Boston Births and Deaths from 1630 to 1664, and Marriages from 1651 to 1664. It also contains early births, marriages and deaths in the towns of Braintree, Cambridge, Charlestown, Concord, Dedham, Dorchester, Roxbury, Sudbury, Watertown, Woburn, Weymouth, Hingham, Springfield and Medfield.

In a second volume the Boston births found in a book before named are transcribed, with a continuation of births to the year 1689.

The next volume of births, believed to be tolerably full, extends from 1689 to 1744, and is followed by another coming down to 1810. In the latter period, especially during and after the revolution, the registration of births was very much neglected. A large volume for recording births was commenced in 1810, and used until July 12, 1849, in which only 3471 names are found, and this includes 976 births of an earlier date than 1810.

For the years 1849, 1850, 1851 and 1852, twenty thousand nine hundred and ninety-three births are registered in two large volumes, generally giving date of birth—name, sex, place of birth, christian names of parents, occupation of father and birth places of father and mother, as required by the present law, and these births are also indexed.

The ancient book before named contains the record of 353 Boston marriages, solemnized by Magistrates, from

1651 to 1662, there being no marriages, with a single exception, on record before 1651, and none from 1662 to 1689. Two volumes embracing the records of marriages from 1689 to 1720, and from 1721 to 1750, including a small number in 1751, succeed. The next book commences in 1761, leaving an entire deficiency of ten years, and continues the record to 1807. All these books are considerably worn, are not well arranged for examinations, and had no indices to female names. They have been copied entire, the males' names arranged alphabetically, in each volume, compared with the originals, and full indices to female names added.

To supply the deficiency as far as possible for the ten years after 1751, access has been had to the Church records of the New North, King's Chapel, New South, Brattle Square, Federal Street, West, Trinity and Christ Church, eight of the thirteen or fourteen religious organizations of that time, and the marriages therein found for the deficient period have been copied, together with a large number of an earlier and later date, which were not to be found on the Town Records. This collection, of more than three thousand, with an index to male and female names, forms a volume of much interest. Then we have three volumes of marriage records from 1807 to July 12, 1849, the male names arranged alphabetically; indices to female names having been recently prepared. The marriage records since July 1849 are contained in three large volumes, embracing the particulars in regard to parties, required by the present registration law, with double indices, referring both to intentions entered, and marriages recorded.

A complete series of intentions of marriage from 1707 to July, 1849, in 18 volumes, are preserved, and are regarded as highly valuable, especially as a large portion of the marriages are not recorded. Indices for 45 years

in the present century have been made within the last two years, which greatly facilitate investigations.

In regard to Deaths prior to 1810, the records are even more deficient than the births and marriages. In the same old book before referred to, entries of deaths are found from 1630 to 1664; then an entire omission until 1689—then a volume extending from 1689 to 1720, then from 1720 to 1810 a small proportion are recorded in the same volumes with births. Recently a transcript has been made of recorded deaths from 1630 to 1700, conveniently arranged for reference, and in another book for the following hundred years. Before 1810 we have no record of places of interment.

From 1810 to 1848 there were fair records of Boston deaths made. They are contained in eleven volumes. The records generally state the dates of death and interment—names and ages of the deceased—the disease or cause of death—the place of interment and the name of the undertaker. Unfortunately these books are of inconvenient and different size and shape, some of bad paper, and the whole not well arranged. They are much used, and should be transcribed, bound in uniform volumes and so arranged as to save labor in examinations.

XII. *Abstract from State Report of 1851, exhibiting the Population in 1850, also BIRTHS, MARRIAGES and DEATHS, in the several counties of Massachusetts for 1849, 1850, 1851.*

Counties.	Population by United States Census. 1850.	Three years, 1849-1851. Annual Average of,				To the Population of 1850, Annual Average of,			Average Age of Deaths.
		Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	One Birth in	One Marriage in	One Death in	
Barnstable,	35,276	742	277	495	247	48	127	71	27.68
Berkshire,	49,591	1109	308	698	411	41	161	71	32.12
Bristol,	76,192	2032	596	1217	815	37	128	63	29.40
Dukes,	4,540	85	29	71	14	53	157	64	39.45
Essex,	131,300	3474	1373	2371	1103	38	96	55	29.55
Franklin,	30,870	729	228	469	260	43	131	66	34.93
Hampden,	51,283	1263	579	926	356	41	89	55	27.28
Hampshire,	35,732	825	295	627	198	43	121	57	31.33
Middlesex,	161,383	4470	1570	2756	1714	36	103	59	25.33
Nantucket,	8,452	121	61	111	10	70	139	71	33.33
Norfolk,	78,892	2409	658	1301	1108	32	120	61	26.93
Plymouth,	55,697	1330	421	847	483	42	132	63	33.13
Suffolk,	144,517	5420	2252	4357	1073	27	64	35	20.21
Worcester,	130,789	3291	1082	2364	927	40	121	60	29.39
Total,	994,514	27310	9729	18610	8719	36	102	53	26.87

XIII. *Abstract showing the most remarkable differences in the Vital Statistics in the various parts of the State, taken from the "Three Years Abstract" for 1849, 1850, 1851, of the Secretary of State.*

Towns.	Population by U. S. Census, 1850.	One Birth in	One Marriage in	One Death in	Average Ages.
Boston, - - - -	136,881	26	63	32	20.32
Wellfleet, - - - -	2,411	51	172	104	31.82
Lenox, - - - -	1,599	41	320	72	36.31
West Stockbridge, - - - -	1,713	29	428	55	26.27
Attleborough, - - - -	4,200	26	162	53	34.66
Norton, - - - -	1,966	47	328	67	39.41
Raynham, - - - -	1,541	33	308	57	40.29
Chilmark, - - - -	747	53	373	93	58.28
Gloucester, - - - -	7,786	32	96	49	28.75
Lawrence, - - - -	8,282	28	41	58	17.95
West Newbury, - - - -	1,746	60	134	67	41.89
Chicopee, - - - -	8,291	40	44	44	19.42
Longmeadow, - - - -	1,252	60	179	60	41.80
Springfield, - - - -	11,766	27	66	45	19.38
Lowell, - - - -	33,383	33	58	49	19.39
Stoughton, - - - -	3,494	26	71	49	25.91
Somerville, - - - -	3,540	37	205	191	19.13
Chelsea, - - - -	6,700	29	89	48	17.65
Fitchburg, - - - -	5,120	28	122	47	20.86

It will be seen by the preceding Table that the number of births range from one in 26 of the population in Boston, Stoughton and Attleborough, to one in 60 in West Newbury and Longmeadow; the marriages from one in 41 in Lawrence, to one in 428 in West Stockbridge; the deaths from one in 32 in Boston, to one in 191 in Somerville, and the average ages at death from 17.65 in Chelsea, to 58.28 in Chilmark. Such great differences cannot be reconciled with correctness of all the returns. It cannot be reasonably supposed that six die in Boston, to one in Somerville, or that ten residents of Lawrence and Chicopee are married to one in West Stockbridge. Neither is it probable that the average of human life is three times as great in Chilmark as in Lawrence, Chelsea and Somerville.

So far as the great ratio of births and deaths in Boston are concerned, several circumstances may be stated in explanation. It should be understood that the United States Census of 1850, (on which are based the Secretary's Tables,) was taken in midsummer, when many thousands of the actual usual residents of Boston could not be found by the marshals. This fact alone may account for much of the apparent difference. The population of the City is very different as to its composition from the State at large. The people are mostly young, with a large foreign element—just the population in which births and deaths are numerous. In any community where births are frequent, there the bills of mortality will be found in a high ratio.

If it be true that the births in Boston are one even in 26 to the population, Stoughton and Attleborough, in Massachusetts, are equally productive. It is stated that in Prussia and Austria, where registration is probably as exact as in any country, the births are in the same ratio, and England is not far behind.

The number of marriages of residents of Boston is by no means extraordinary. Nearly 400 couples from the neighboring Cities and Towns, obtain their marriage certificates of their own Clerks, are married in Boston, and as required by law the registration is in Boston. Probably a large share of the marriages returned by the Town of Lawrence are of parties belonging elsewhere.

REPORT

BY THE

CITY REGISTRAR

OF THE

Births, Marriages, and Deaths,

IN THE

CITY OF BOSTON,

FOR THE YEAR

1853.



BOSTON:

1854.

J. H. EASTBURN, CITY PRINTER.

City Document.—No. 12.

REPORT

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CITY OF BOSTON,

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1853.



BOSTON:
1854.

J. H. EASTBURN, CITY PRINTER.

CITY OF BOSTON.

In Common Council, January 26, 1854.

Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Attest:

W. P. GREGG, *Clerk C. C.*

REPORT.

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council :

In obedience to a City Ordinance and usage, in relation to the Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths the following tabular statements for the year 1853, comparisons with past years, and explanatory remarks, are presented :—

Five thousand, five hundred and ninety-six births have been registered ; namely, 2815 males, and 2781 females ; children of 1679 American fathers and 1689 American mothers, of 3788 fathers and 3803 mothers of foreign nativity ; the birthplaces of 77 fathers and 52 mothers being unknown.

The intentions of marriage of three thousand and ninety-two couples, one or both parties in every case described as residing in Boston, have been entered and certificates issued ; namely, 1390 male and 1369 female Americans, and 1702 males and 1723 females of foreign birth.

Two thousand eight hundred and fifty-five actual returns of marriages by Clergymen and Magistrates have been recorded, the parties, as to origin, being in the same proportion.

Four thousand two hundred and eighty-four deaths

have been registered; namely, 2203 males and 2081 females. As nearly as can be ascertained, 3078 were born in the United States, 1345 being children of foreign parents, and 1206 were born in foreign countries.

The registration of increased numbers, in each department, indicates a very decided advance in population over preceding years.

More extended details will be found in the Tables under the several heads.

BIRTHS.

The principal feature of interest in regard to Births, the last year, is the very considerable increase. Astonishing numbers have occurred in some localities which are crowded with a foreign population. In several instances as many as eight births are recorded as having taken place in a single house. The remarkable fruitfulness of Foreign, over American Mothers is in striking contrast; while the mortality among the young offspring of the former is proportional.

A case of triplet births occurred in that flourishing section, East Boston. Twin births have been about as usual. In one instance the second child is recorded, on good authority, as having been born two days after its mate.

With his usual industry and enthusiasm, Mr. George Adams has acted as Assistant Registrar in this department, and in the following letter and table, tells his story:—

Boston, Jan. 26, 1854.

To the City Registrar :

Dear Sir,—For the last five years, ending Dec. 31, 1853, it has been my pleasant duty to annually report to you the number of births in Boston, with the particulars required by law. The system so carefully put in operation at first, has been uniformly followed up by persons experienced in the work; and the result, this year, is as satisfactory as any former one. The number of births this year (5596) is somewhat larger than in any former returns.

The average yearly increase has been 132; in the greatest increase in any year (1853) 288; decrease in 1852, one year only 30.

At the close of the canvass of the fifth year, I deem it proper and a fit occasion to express congratulation upon the success which has crowned the work. When the collection of these statistics were determined upon, it was regarded by some as an experiment, of doubtful expediency, impracticable, useless, &c. Even some of its friends entertained fears that the facts would be withheld, or that the inquiries to elicit information, necessary to render the returns of use, would be offensive. Experience has dissipated these fears and views, and the measure has proved successful and popular.

Established thus upon a foundation which must secure the confidence of all, its continuance should ever be maintained with the interest and care necessary from the nature of the work and the difficulties which attend it. The facts already collected can, and no doubt will become more and more valuable, if carefully and thoroughly collected.

Respectfully yours,

GEORGE ADAMS.

I. BIRTHS registered in Boston, in the year 1853.

† DIVISIONS.	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL.
Males,	821	481	885	306	265	57	2815
Females,	835	493	843	267	297	46	2781
Total,	1656	974	1728	573	562	103	5596
Twins,	16	8	15	8	2	2	51
Triplets,	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Born out of Boston,	78	38	64	14	21	0	215

Birthplaces of Parents.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Total Fathers.	Total Mothers.
Boston,	137	164	124	134	78	110	52	53	32	48	3	7	426	516
Massachusetts (out of Boston), . .	102	106	141	140	88	77	51	51	63	51	1	0	446	425
Maine,	81	100	71	98	61	78	29	36	50	61	1	1	293	374
New Hampshire, .	84	49	71	64	49	29	34	24	35	27	0	0	273	193
Vermont,	28	23	23	12	22	11	3	1	2	6	0	0	78	53
Connecticut, . . .	9	2	8	6	9	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	27	13
Rhode Island, . .	4	5	9	5	4	3	2	3	2	3	0	1	21	20
Other Amer. States,	36	19	40	42	21	12	6	9	10	12	2	1	115	95
England,	61	53	44	35	46	44	32	41	49	37	9	1	241	211
Scotland,	12	14	9	5	13	14	18	10	7	4	1	1	60	48
Ireland,	903	964	258	272	1167	1197	300	306	224	224	75	81	2927	3044
France,	10	2	3	4	8	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	23	9
Germany & N. Eur.	63	37	114	97	64	53	17	12	25	23	1	2	284	224
British Provinces, .	61	77	34	37	56	63	9	11	45	51	4	6	209	245
Other Countries, .	26	13	7	6	6	3	1	0	3	0	1	0	44	22
Unknown,	24	13	10	9	21	13	8	7	11	10	3	0	77	52
	1641	1641	966	966	1713	1713	565	565	558	558	101	101	5544	5544

RECAPITULATION.

New England States.	Other American States.	Foreign Countries.	Unknown.
Fathers, 1564.	Fathers, 115.	Fathers, 3788.	Fathers, 77.
Mothers, 1594.	Mothers, 95.	Mothers, 3803.	Mothers, 52.

- † No. 1. Part north of State, Court and Cambridge streets.
 " 2. Part west of Washington, south of Court and Cambridge streets.
 " 3. Part east of Washington, south of State street.
 " 4. South Boston, except City Institutions.
 " 5. East Boston and Islands.
 " 6. City Institutions at South Boston and Deer Island.

MARRIAGES.

The many irregularities in regard to banns of marriage and marriages, occasioned by the peculiarities and obscurity of the Massachusetts laws, and differing laws and usages of neighboring States are much to be regretted.

The following is the construction of the laws of Massachusetts as to the duties of Clerks, Clergymen and Magistrates in regard to certificates of Intentions of Marriages, actual Marriages and the return of the same as understood in this office, and regarded generally by officers in Boston and the immediate vicinity.

If the intended bridegroom and bride reside in the same town or city in this State, the Intention is to be entered in the office of the Clerk or Registrar of the town or city. The Clerk or Registrar records the names, ages, birthplaces and parents name of each, and the occupation of the male, and issues a certificate accordingly. When the parties to a Marriage reside in different places in this State, the entry must be made, and a certificate procured, from each; but if only one of the parties reside in Massachusetts, a certificate from the place of his, or her residence, is sufficient to authorize the Marriage.

If a male be under the age of twenty-one years, or the female under the age of eighteen years, no certificate can be issued until the consent of the parent or guardian is obtained, if there be any in the State.

Clergymen residing in this State, who have been regularly inducted into the Ministry, agreeably to the usages of their several denominations, and who continue

to exercise the vocation, may marry in any part of the State, provided that either the Clergyman, the bridegroom or the bride resides at the place of marriage. But a Clergyman who resides in Boston cannot legally marry in Salem parties who belong in Worcester, and Clergymen who reside in other States are not authorized to solemnize marriages in this State. Justices of the Peace (except, perhaps Justices throughout the Commonwealth) can only marry in the Counties for which they are commissioned, and at least one of the parties to a Marriage, must be a resident of the same County. Before solemnizing a Marriage, the officiator should receive the certificates required. The certificates of Marriage Intentions now issued by Clerks in the form prescribed and furnished by the Secretary of State, have blanks at the bottom for the place, date of Marriage, and signature of the Clergyman, and the whole certificate or a certified copy is to be returned to the Clerk or Registrar of the place where the Marriage is solemnized, on or before the tenth day of the following month.

Within the last year the Marriages of minors have not been numerous. The greater part of such, are parties who have no parent or guardian to object, and hence are strictly legal. In other instances, even if girls of 15 or 16 years of age, legal consent was given.

It is feared that spurious documents, in regard to such consent, or age of parties, are imposed upon this office. It is believed the new law on the subject of Marriages of minors has but little effect, so long as loose usages prevail in other States. On the other hand it is a fact, that in this community a much greater proportion delay Marriages to an advanced period of life. Of the first Marriage of males during the last year 409 were between 30 and 40 years, 42 between 40 and 50 and 4 over 50 years of age. And of the first Marriages

of females 156 were between the ages of 30 and 40, 21 between 40 and 50, and 4 over 50 years. A sprightly widower of 72 from the West has borne away a Boston widow of 71 years. In another instance a widower of 70 has been united to a widow of 60.

Commendation is due to Clergymen and Magistrates, for their general prompt compliance with the law, requiring monthly returns of Marriages solemnized. Still there is reason to believe, that a large number of Boston Marriages in 1853, are not recorded. Of the 3092 couples who received certificates of Intentions of Marriage during the year, probably very few remain unmarried. The recorded Marriages are 2855 which include 334 couples whose certificates came from other cities and towns. Admitting that as many who entered their Intentions in Boston went abroad to be married, which is improbable, there would still be a deficiency of between two and three hundred. Clergymen or Justices of the Peace who receive fees for solemnizing Marriages, even if they do not regard laws, or fear a fine for neglect, surely ought in justice to the parties, and for the future benefit of widows and orphans, place the evidence on record.

III. Table showing the MARRIAGES RECORDED in Boston for 1853, with the nativity of the Parties.

Birthplaces.	Males.	Females.	Birthplaces.	Males.	Females.
Boston, - - -	228	394	England, - - -	129	69
Massachusetts, except Boston, - - -	380	291	Scotland, - - -	40	23
Maine, - - -	212	278	Ireland, - - -	1058	1244
New Hampshire, - - -	164	110	France, - - -	24	14
Vermont, - - -	60	42	Spain and Portugal, - - -	2	2
Connecticut, - - -	21	10	Germany and North of Europe, - - -	141	100
Rhode Island, - - -	24	13	British American Provinces, - - -	196	189
Other States, - - -	131	44	Other Foreign Countries, - - -	25	11
At Sea, - - -	1	0	Unknown, - - -	19	21
	1221	1182		1634	1673

RECAPITULATION.

	Males.	Females.
Americans, - - -	1220	1182
Foreigners, - - -	1615	1652
At Sea, - - -	1	0
Unknown, - - -	19	21
Total, - - -	2855	2855

In 2124 cases both parties belong to Boston.

" 334 " " non-residents.

" 291 " Male a non-resident and Female resident.

" 106 " Female " Male "

DEATHS.

Without any unusual prevalence of epidemics, eighteen hundred and fifty-three has been marked by a greater mortality than any former year, except eighteen hundred and forty-nine, the epoch of cholera in Boston. The last twelve months have also been remarkable for the demise of many well-known and highly respectable individuals. The increased mortality may be accounted for, in a great degree, by increase of population.

The uncertainty of *reported* causes of death has been alluded to in former reports. The returns from funeral undertakers and friends of the deceased, of diseases are often so indefinite, and improbable, that inquiries are repeated with a view of revision. In some instances satisfactory answers are obtained; in others it becomes necessary to leave the column for the cause of death blank in the record.

It is believed that from ten to twenty per cent. too many are reported, and recorded, as dying of consumption. It is not to be denied that *phthisis* is the great life-destroyer of our climate; but it is believed by many intelligent and professional observers that too much is charged to this malady, while scrofula, marasmus—a general wasting without pulmonary affection—and diseases induced by vicious indulgences do not bear their true proportion. On this subject the City Inspector of the city of New York, in his Report for 1852 justly remarks—"Consumption, in all bills of mortality that we have access to, stands conspicuously forth in its array of figures. The mortality from this cause greatly exceeds that of any other; in this, however, it is only pur-

suings its usual course. It is not at all presumable, though, that phthisis as understood, is properly chargeable with all included under the term Consumption. It has even been found an exceedingly convenient hiding-place for a host of ailments that prefer another guise; there's a *prestige* about it, and a protecting character in its influence, that cause it to be constantly sought, to shield others of not such distinctive favor; hence its ranks are always crowded, and it would not be surprising, upon due investigation if the discovery were made, that like 'charity,' it covereth a multitude of sins.

"The proportion of those said to have died of this malady, to the total mortality, will be found to be eleven and a half per cent., or about one-ninth; there is little reason, however, to suppose that this disease in this city prevails to this extent. There is no other way, though, for this department at present, than to receive and record the certificates of death as they purport to be.

"The undefined character of the returns, attaches no responsibility to the city Inspector; and if more minute and correct statements are required, the reform must commence elsewhere."

In New York a formal certificate from a Physician or Coroner of the cause of death is required by the City Inspector before an interment or removal of a body can take place; still it would seem by the above extracts that New York statistics are, in this particular, nearly as unreliable as our own.

In regard to the greater mortality and less average of human life in Boston than in other parts of the State, as seen in the Massachusetts Summary Table of Registration for 1852, prepared under the superintendence of the Secretary of State it is very properly remarked that "It will be observed that the County of Suffolk shows

a considerable proportional mortality when compared with other Counties. In this connection it must not be forgotten that a large number of deaths in the capital arise from the great number of sickly immigrants who are constantly arriving, and from the great mortality that occurs among the young offspring of the same class of persons, with which the city of Boston abounds. Nor must it be forgotten that many sick and infirm persons from all parts of the State resort thither for the benefit of the munificent public Institutions with which the city is endowed, and others, often as a last hope, for a change of medical attendance and systems of treatment. Besides these causes, it must be remembered that no allowance has been made for the large relative increase of population in Suffolk, which has been much greater than that in any other County within the Commonwealth."

It might have been added, that retired Merchants and others in advanced age, in very considerable numbers, remove from Boston to close their lives in rural residences; a circumstance favorable to the apparent longevity of the Country over the Metropolis.

IV. *General Abstract of the BILL OF MORTALITY, 1853, as reported at the City Registrar's Office, showing the deaths each month, with the sex and ages of deceased.*

Months.	Stillborn.		Under 1 year.		1 to 2.		2 to 3.		3 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		90 to 100.		Totals		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Jan.	10	8	1	19	48	46	22	14	19	10	20	16	12	10	2	5	2	7	12	20	9	14	13	12	9	4	6	12	1	4	1	7	0	0	357
Feb.	12	9	1	22	31	47	14	21	8	7	13	8	10	6	4	8	8	16	19	14	15	9	13	9	10	5	7	3	8	0	2	1	0	317	
March.	16	5	0	21	51	31	18	21	14	13	7	16	9	16	4	1	5	5	9	21	13	15	10	9	12	2	4	8	5	9	4	5	1	1	339
April.	8	8	0	16	45	45	17	16	5	9	12	13	7	6	1	0	2	5	17	25	23	18	18	8	11	9	5	5	6	3	2	5	0	1	339
May.	5	9	1	15	36	36	19	15	17	7	15	13	4	14	2	4	3	14	21	15	22	14	10	13	6	7	5	6	6	2	2	0	0	330	
June.	12	3	4	19	29	22	20	15	11	9	4	9	13	7	1	2	9	4	18	14	7	14	9	7	6	4	5	2	2	2	0	2	0	0	263
July.	10	9	0	19	75	60	24	20	7	14	7	9	7	4	6	3	4	6	14	18	11	15	15	9	11	6	8	6	9	4	3	0	0	383	
Aug.	7	5	1	13	99	64	36	43	16	12	12	8	8	5	4	4	5	9	20	16	37	16	12	13	10	11	11	13	5	4	3	7	0	0	503
Sept.	7	4	0	11	54	53	38	42	7	9	9	12	8	7	5	4	1	9	27	24	21	24	18	8	13	11	10	4	6	3	3	2	0	1	436
Oct.	15	7	0	22	37	26	21	21	5	6	7	12	8	7	3	1	9	6	16	24	17	16	20	11	8	8	11	7	1	5	0	1	1	1	316
Nov.	16	10	0	26	37	27	23	22	7	10	9	8	7	1	6	4	3	10	21	20	25	16	16	10	10	10	7	4	6	1	1	1	1	333	
Dec.	12	5	1	18	38	27	24	28	18	15	15	11	10	10	3	2	5	2	23	23	10	8	7	10	11	8	3	6	2	4	0	0	0	368	
	130	82	9	221	580	484	276	278	134	121	130	135	103	93	39	32	57	74	207	249	222	199	169	120	120	93	92	89	48	68	22	41	4	5	4284

	Males.	Females.
Under 15 years,	-	-
15 to 30	-	1143
30 to 60	-	323
Over 60	-	412
	-	203
	2203	2081

V. *Diseases and Causes of Death in Boston in 1853.*

DISEASES.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Anemia,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Abscess,	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	6
Accidents,	4	4	1	7	4	7	6	10	10	5	11	4	73
Apoplexy,	1	2	3	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	0	3	20
Asthma,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
Bowels, inflammation of,	1	4	4	3	4	6	22	12	10	9	4	5	84
“ disease of,	2	2	2	0	3	0	6	9	10	2	2	1	39
Brain, inflammation of,	2	1	4	6	6	3	7	6	5	3	8	7	58
“ congestion of,	1	4	4	6	2	5	4	2	6	2	1	1	38
“ disease of,	1	4	5	5	3	6	7	8	7	4	3	2	55
Bronchitis,	0	0	1	4	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	10
Bladder, disease of,	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Burns and Scalds,	3	1	4	2	0	2	2	4	1	1	3	3	26
Consumption,	69	69	52	65	66	48	58	45	56	62	65	78	733
Convulsions,	11	7	5	10	14	9	15	10	11	13	7	8	120
Cancer,	0	2	3	6	0	3	2	3	1	1	0	1	22
Croup,	25	18	25	14	13	7	7	3	10	15	15	29	181
Chicken pox,	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Cholera morbus,	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	28	0	1	0	0	33
“ infantum,	0	0	1	0	0	0	25	60	42	5	1	0	134
Child-birth, disease of,	4	6	2	9	6	6	4	4	4	6	5	4	60
Colic,	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Cyanosis,	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Diarrhœa,	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	11	7	4	3	1	32
Dysentery,	4	1	1	0	4	2	12	33	43	20	8	1	129
Debility,	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	5	5	1	1	17
Dropsy,	8	7	5	8	3	3	5	5	9	4	12	5	74
“ in the head,	13	8	19	19	20	11	13	16	11	10	9	8	157
Drowned,	0	2	3	5	4	3	5	3	2	2	1	0	30
Diabetes,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Diseases unknown,	0	1	4	0	3	8	3	7	7	2	5	5	45
“ infantile,	35	19	28	34	23	13	41	36	22	22	25	20	318
Epilepsy,	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	5
Erysipelas,	7	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	4	2	32
Exhaustion,	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Fevers (not classed),	0	4	0	1	2	1	2	1	3	1	1	0	16
Fever, typhus or ship,	5	2	1	4	2	1	4	2	6	7	5	5	44
“ typhoid,	3	2	7	3	6	4	2	6	10	11	6	7	67
“ scarlet,	61	42	27	24	23	19	6	5	1	2	9	10	229
Fracture,	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
	265	219	214	242	223	176	268	338	303	228	216	216	2908

V. *Diseases and Causes of Death in Boston in 1853.*

DISEASES.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Gravel,	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Gout,	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Hemorrhage	1	3	1	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	6	2	24
Homicide,	0	2	2	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	11
Höoping cough,	4	7	8	5	6	2	7	8	6	2	3	6	64
Heart, disease of,	7	9	10	4	6	7	6	7	4	1	10	7	78
Hip, disease of,	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hernia,	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Influenza,	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Intemperance,	3	1	0	2	4	2	3	5	2	2	3	1	28
Inflammation,	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Kidneys, disease of,	2	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	9
Liver, disease of,	8	2	2	3	2	1	2	2	4	1	6	3	36
Lungs, inflammation of,	24	24	34	35	19	16	12	5	12	20	21	23	245
“ congestion of,	3	1	0	2	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	15
Mortification,	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	10
Mania,	0	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	1
Marasmus,	10	11	7	8	14	15	15	13	15	8	8	6	130
Measles,	2	1	0	0	11	7	11	25	8	6	24	49	144
Neuralgia,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Old Age,	6	6	14	9	9	0	13	9	10	5	7	10	98
Pleurisy,	4	2	2	3	3	2	1	1	3	7	5	3	36
Palsy,	4	1	5	3	5	4	8	3	5	3	1	3	45
Poison,	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	4
Peritonitis,	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	8
Purpura,	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Rheumatism,	1	3	2	1	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	2	17
Stomach, inflammation of,	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	2	2	1	12
Spine, disease of,	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	2	10
Scrofula,	0	1	3	1	3	0	3	2	2	4	1	2	22
Scurvy,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Syphilis,	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Sun stroke,	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	15	0	0	0	0	19
Suffocation,	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Suicide,	1	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	0	2	0	2	15
Small Pox,	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	6
Teething,	4	10	18	8	7	6	21	45	42	16	11	8	196
Tumor,	1	1	4	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	13
Thrush,	1	0	1	0	1	3	1	8	5	3	3	6	32
Throat, disease of,	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	6
Ulcers,	0	2	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Worms,	2	1	1	1	2	3	0	1	2	1	0	0	14
	92	98	125	97	107	87	115	165	133	88	117	152	1376
	265	219	214	242	223	176	268	338	303	228	216	216	2908
	357	317	339	339	330	263	383	503	436	316	333	368	4284

VI. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT *of the Principal Causes of Death*
in Boston in 1850, 1851, 1852 and 1853.

	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.
Accidents,	36	69	73	73
Apoplexy,	27	32	23	20
Burns and Scalds, . . .	20	17	20	26
Bowels, diseases of, . . .	396	421	333	317
Brain, diseases of, . . .	110	96	109	151
Consumption,	586	669	681	733
Convulsions,	129	131	122	120
Croup,	87	86	112	181
Cancer,	29	19	32	22
Cholera Infantum, . . .	36	75	70	134
Debility,	22	22	17	17
Dropsy,	72	52	67	74
“ in the head, . . .	157	158	155	157
Drowned,	23	38	26	30
Erysipelas,	65	33	26	32
Fever, Scarlet,	69	50	269	229
“ Typhus,	61	88	46	44
“ Typhoid,	43	82	66	67
Hooping Cough,	81	54	51	64
Heart, disease of, . . .	52	86	79	78
Infantile, diseases not defined, . . .	251	314	283	318
Liver, disease of, . . .	29	28	27	36
Lungs, inflammation of, . . .	290	262	226	245
Marasmus,	91	106	96	130
Measles,	75	145	29	144
Old Age,	80	79	78	98
Palsy,	33	28	39	45
Smallpox,	192	63	12	6
Teething,	108	116	137	196
Thrush,	36	25	28	32
Various other causes, . . .	381	411	404	465
	<hr/> 3667	<hr/> 3855	<hr/> 3736	<hr/> 4284

VII. *Showing the DEATHS IN BOSTON on each day of the year 1852, as reported by Funeral Undertakers and others.*

DAY.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Septemb'r.	October.	November.	December.
1	12	15	14	10	10	10	10	18	11	14	10	12
2	9	13	10	15	6	7	10	11	11	12	10	9
3	10	13	11	9	16	11	8	12	12	10	8	6
4	10	9	15	8	11	15	18	23	9	13	13	10
5	13	13	15	13	7	10	15	17	14	13	21	11
6	8	14	10	6	8	17	7	16	14	10	17	10
7	7	8	10	13	13	7	10	11	15	7	10	7
8	8	12	5	13	11	6	5	16	11	7	12	8
9	9	14	14	9	14	9	10	17	12	13	10	14
10	14	6	5	6	9	5	7	27	19	13	5	17
11	9	7	14	7	20	7	5	18	12	10	9	17
12	14	12	10	13	7	6	6	26	11	10	12	23
13	11	16	3	15	12	13	13	27	11	11	11	6
14	10	8	11	10	10	5	6	21	19	4	6	10
15	9	8	6	10	17	7	10	14	19	14	7	7
16	14	13	14	16	17	11	12	18	5	6	8	11
17	19	14	14	12	9	12	21	11	13	10	11	19
18	9	14	16	18	13	5	10	27	13	7	21	14
19	9	14	8	5	2	7	10	10	19	7	9	7
20	10	11	11	17	7	15	14	13	20	18	8	14
21	16	12	7	13	7	11	18	24	17	13	9	14
22	11	8	10	11	5	7	14	9	19	11	15	14
23	11	14	12	9	18	4	17	11	25	13	9	16
24	12	4	12	7	15	13	11	11	13	9	15	8
25	13	12	7	12	10	11	16	14	18	12	6	12
26	10	18	20	13	10	7	21	20	16	4	11	12
27	18	2	6	11	13	4	11	11	15	9	13	6
28	12	13	6	12	12	3	21	10	17	3	17	15
29	14	0	16	16	7	9	13	13	14	7	8	13
30	11	0	13	10	8	9	16	17	12	8	12	14
31	15	0	14	0	6	0	18	10	0	18	0	12
	357	317	339	339	330	263	383	503	436	316	333	368

VIII. STATEMENT *showing the aggregate and average ages of 730 men who died in 1853, and whose professions and occupations were ascertained.*

No.	Profession or Occupation.	Aggregate Ages	Ages ranging from	Average Ages.
				Years.
265	Laborers, . . .	10,738	17 to 79	40.51
51	Mariners, . . .	2,227	16 " 77	43.66
43	Carpenters, . . .	1,986	22 " 94	46.18
40	Clerks, . . .	1,431	16 " 76	35.77
31	Merchants, . . .	1,903	27 " 86	61.06
15	Traders, . . .	649	26 " 72	43.26
29	Tailors, . . .	1,148	19 " 68	39.58
16	Shoemakers, . . .	557	22 " 52	34.81
14	Teamsters, . . .	492	19 " 52	35.14
29	Blacksmiths, . . .	1,068	18 " 74	36.82
3	Farmers, . . .	157	21 " 83	52.33
10	Gentlemen, . . .	633	43 " 87	63.31
9	Masons, . . .	436	27 " 66	48.44
2	Clergymen, . . .	124	55 " 69	62.
2	Coopers, . . .	75	35 " 40	37.50
4	Butchers, . . .	157	27 " 51	39.25
4	Barbers, . . .	153	19 " 80	38.25
9	Painters, . . .	321	20 " 50	35.66
6	Cabinet Makers, . . .	305	29 " 68	50.83
10	Printers, . . .	353	17 " 73	35.30
6	Physicians, . . .	310	34 " 74	51.66
9	Musicians, . . .	453	28 " 85	50.33
7	Riggers, . . .	435	30 " 92	62.14
5	Tin and Coppersmiths, . . .	163	20 " 55	32.06
9	Bakers, . . .	335	21 " 67	37.11
3	Stablers, . . .	103	26 " 41	34.33
99	Of various occupations,	4,471	17 " 78	45.16
730		31,183		42.71

IX. Showing the NATIVITY or PARENTAGE of the persons who died in Boston in 1850, 1851, 1852 and 1853, as nearly as can be ascertained.

	1850.		1851.		1852.		1853.	
	Amer. Origin.	Foreign Origin.	Amer. Origin.	Foreign Origin.	Amer. Origin.	Foreign Origin.	Amer. Origin.	Foreign Origin.
Boston, - - -	965	939	966	1037	881	1106	1042	1345
Massachusetts, (except Boston,) - - -	330	-	355	-	335	-	341	-
Maine, - - -	150	-	137	-	134	-	129	-
New Hampshire, - - -	100	-	101	-	93	-	91	-
Vermont, - - -	26	-	32	-	21	-	21	-
Connecticut, - - -	14	-	17	-	10	-	8	-
Rhode Island, - - -	18	-	11	-	15	-	13	-
Middle, Southern and Western States, - - -	77	-	82	-	53	-	57	-
England, - - -	-	49	-	85	-	66	-	75
Scotland, - - -	-	22	-	21	-	21	-	20
Ireland, - - -	-	803	-	834	-	803	-	942
France, - - -	-	9	-	7	-	7	-	7
Spain and Portugal, - - -	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	2
Germany and North of Europe, - - -	-	85	-	28	-	56	-	71
British Am. Provinces, - - -	-	84	-	95	-	86	-	73
Other Foreign Countries, - - -	-	18	-	13	-	21	-	14
At Sea, - - -	5	-	3	-	-	-	-	2
Unknown, - - -	21	-	29	-	26	-	31	-
	1706	1961	1733	2122	1568	2168	1733	2551

X. *Table exhibiting the number of DEATHS in Boston, for the years 1850, 1851, 1852 and 1853, of different ages, with the percentage of each class.*

AGES.		1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	Totals.	Per cent.
Under 1,	{ M.	467	499	467	580	2013	12.95
	{ F.	412	436	393	484	1725	11.10
1 to 2,	{ M.	239	248	240	276	1003	6.45
	{ F.	200	222	192	278	892	5.74
2 to 3,	{ M.	106	115	109	134	464	2.99
	{ F.	88	85	99	121	393	2.53
3 to 5,	{ M.	102	86	118	130	436	2.80
	{ F.	92	92	109	135	428	2.76
5 to 10,	{ M.	90	82	89	103	364	2.34
	{ F.	75	74	92	93	334	2.15
10 to 15,	{ M.	36	35	34	39	144	.93
	{ F.	32	36	30	32	130	.84
15 to 20,	{ M.	42	68	53	57	220	1.41
	{ F.	89	71	66	74	300	1.93
20 to 30,	{ M.	228	218	208	207	861	5.54
	{ F.	247	300	267	249	1063	6.84
30 to 40,	{ M.	199	205	170	222	796	5.12
	{ F.	170	181	199	199	749	4.82
40 to 50,	{ M.	138	180	165	169	652	4.19
	{ F.	108	111	112	120	451	2.90
50 to 60.	{ M.	99	99	93	120	411	2.64
	{ F.	76	99	87	93	355	2.29
60 to 70,	{ M.	74	67	88	92	321	2.07
	{ F.	83	80	94	89	346	2.23
70 to 80,	{ M.	44	46	51	48	189	1.22
	{ F.	64	73	60	68	265	1.70
80 to 90,	{ M.	18	16	17	22	73	0.47
	{ F.	31	23	26	41	121	0.78
90 to 100,	{ M.	5	2	0	4	11	0.07
	{ F.	12	6	8	5	32	0.20
Over 100,	{ M.	0					
	{ F.	1					
Total,		3,667	3,855	3,736	4,284	15,542	100.00

XI. *Statement showing the BIRTHS, INTENTIONS OF MARRIAGE ENTERED, MARRIAGES RECORDED, and DEATHS, for each month of the years 1850, 1851, 1852 and 1853.*

	Births.				Intentions of Marriage.				Marriages Recorded.				Deaths.				
	1850	1851	1852.	1853.	1850	1851.	1852	1853	1850	1851.	1852.	1853.	1850.	1851.	1852	1853.	
January,	-	369	434	472	448	215	263	262	336	168	281	254	320	313	302	280	357
February,	-	352	397	436	409	101	223	217	192	151	253	239	211	294	306	263	317
March,	-	453	499	464	497	158	133	153	194	74	168	125	146	350	326	293	339
April,	-	415	408	440	449	147	222	259	291	190	197	222	266	296	294	272	339
May,	-	435	405	393	418	242	286	242	249	271	267	224	267	301	331	242	330
June,	-	416	424	434	408	229	216	222	227	231	223	207	211	279	290	244	263
July,	-	493	458	451	488	216	246	221	213	212	228	214	221	271	320	365	383
August,	-	434	478	464	494	209	214	204	255	193	226	203	216	396	409	433	503
September,	-	489	439	404	433	221	306	243	278	235	251	236	242	328	376	372	436
October,	-	466	448	445	484	282	316	295	305	277	300	274	265	261	290	306	316
November,	-	480	456	432	547	323	309	320	322	348	320	321	340	269	289	330	333
December,	-	477	492	473	521	214	219	239	230	183	173	167	150	309	322	336	368
	5279	5338	5308	5396	2557	2953	2877	3092	2533	2887	2686	2855	3667	3855	3736	4284	

XII. POPULATION, BIRTHS and DEATHS in several sections of the City in 1850, 1851, 1852 and 1853.

DISTRICTS.	Popula- tion in 1850.	Births.				Deaths.			
		1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.
1.—Part north of State, Court and Cambridge Streets,	42,438	1618	1632	1549	1656	982	1045	1007	1125
2.—Part west of Washington and South of Court and Cambridge Streets,	33,668	952	875	961	974	696	708	608	821
3.—Part east of Washington and south of State Streets,	39,522	1716	1574	1646	1728	959	979	1082	1138
4.—South Boston, except City Institutions,	13,309	487	553	544	573	281	313	322	371
5.—East Boston and Islands,	9,851	408	594	493	562	224	281	276	338
6.—City Institutions at South Boston and Deer Island,		98	110	115	103	454	433	361	409
7.—Massachusetts General Hospital,						71	96	80	82
	138,788	5279	5338	5308	5596	3667	3855	3736	4284

INTERMENTS.

The interments of the 4284 persons who died in Boston in the year 1853, were as follows:—

In South Burial Ground,	-	-	-	-	247
“ Copp’s Hill, Old and New Ground,	-	-	-	-	183
“ Granary Ground,	-	-	-	-	26
“ Chapel Ground and Cemetery,	-	-	-	-	18
“ Central Ground,	-	-	-	-	104
“ St. Paul’s Cemetery,	-	-	-	-	12
“ Trinity Church Cemetery,	-	-	-	-	6
“ Park Street Cemetery,	-	-	-	-	2
“ Christ Church Cemetery,	-	-	-	-	13
					<hr/>
Total in City proper,	-	-	-	-	611
In South Boston Grounds and Cemeteries,	-				283
“ East Boston	“	“	“	-	365
“ Tombs and Graves at City Institutions,	-				333
Removed directly to places out of the City,	-				2692
					<hr/>
Total,	-	-	-	-	4284

During the year about fifty interments have occurred in the City proper of persons who died abroad, their family tombs being here.

On the other hand a much larger number have been, or soon will be, removed to rural cemeteries.

Notwithstanding the increased number of deaths, the number of City Interments have diminished, showing the continued interest taken by the citizens in providing family burial places abroad.

The present Ordinances of the City, in regard to burials, are substantially the same as they were many years ago, when intramural interments were common and removals unfrequent. Although the present system has generally worked well, it is the opinion of some that an important change ought to be made, so that Undertakers, instead of the City, shall provide funeral cars. This subject will probably be brought before the City Council for consideration.

The undersigned, in submitting a Fifth Annual Report, desires to express to the City Government his gratitude for the interest and indulgence extended to his imperfect endeavors to promote a useful system of Registration. The embarrassments and discouragements have been many. The labors have been arduous; requiring much more service than he has been able to accomplish in the prescribed office hours.

The undersigned bears cheerful testimony to the faithfulness and efficiency of William Palfrey, Esq., as Permanent Clerk in this Office, and to valuable occasional aid of Messrs. Abraham W. Blanchard, Elisha Vinton and Calvin Whiting.

It is also due to the Funeral Undertakers to state that their general and intelligent co-operation in reporting full particulars of deaths is regarded with much satisfaction.

Respectfully submitted.

ARTEMAS SIMONDS.

CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, }
January 26, 1853. }

83570-146

R E P O R T

BY THE

CITY REGISTRAR

OF THE

Births, Marriages, and Deaths,

IN THE

CITY OF BOSTON,

FOR THE YEAR

1854.



BOSTON:
1855.

J. H. EASTBURN, CITY PRINTER.

City Document—No. 10.

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BY THE

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FOR THE YEAR

1854.



U

BOSTON:

1855.

J. H. EASTBURN, CITY PRINTER.

In Board of Aldermen,

January 29, 1855.

Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Attest:

S. F. McCLEARY, *City Clerk.*

REPORT.

To the Honorable City Council:

By Ordinance, the City Registrar is required to report to the City Council in the month of January, annually, "a statement of the number of births, intentions of marriages entered according to law, of marriages solemnized, and of deaths recorded during the previous year, with such other information and suggestions in relation thereto, as he may deem useful." In obedience to this requirement, the undersigned has the honor to submit the following report:—

BIRTHS.

The duty of canvassing the City, in pursuance of the objects of this department, was again entrusted to Mr. George Adams, under whose supervision the same work was so satisfactorily performed the four preceding years.

In submitting the following tabular statement of the result of his labors, Mr. Adams adds:—

“In presenting the annual returns of births in the City of Boston for the year 1854, it is gratifying to find the canvassing of former years so satisfactorily confirmed by this year's result. The number of births in 1854, was 5,688; the number in 1853, was 5,596; showing an increase of 92. The average yearly increase during the last six years has been 124.

“An abiding interest in regard to the full and proper registration of the births of children, seems yet to manifest itself among parents.”

I. BIRTHS registered in Boston in the Year 1854.

†DIVISIONS.	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Males,	818	557	887	342	311	24	2939
Females,	795	526	814	279	301	34	2749
Total,	1613	1083	1701	621	612	58	5688
Twins,	12	7	10	4	3		36

Birthplaces of Parents.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Total Fathers.	Total Mothers.
Boston,	107	136	140	172	82	109	48	67	31	40	2		410	524
Massachusetts (out of Boston), . .	105	88	162	156	123	95	70	56	72	79	1	1	533	475
Maine,	69	78	54	83	37	63	34	48	53	64	1		248	336
New Hampshire, .	84	63	75	44	51	32	30	17	30	26			270	182
Vermont,	28	18	29	16	11	17	6	1	8	5			82	57
Connecticut, . .	4	7	8	8	4	4	4	3	1	4			21	26
Rhode Island, . .	5	6	6	7	4	4	1	3	3	3			19	23
Other Amer. States,	43	25	37	43	27	15	7	9	14	14		3	123	109
England,	61	62	48	38	66	48	25	19	41	35	2	4	243	206
Scotland,	17	16	12	11	20	9	16	16	15	3	1	2	81	57
Ireland,	886	955	253	285	1104	1127	302	314	246	246	33	29	2824	2956
France,	6	1	16	2	5	4	3		6				36	7
Germany & N. Eur.	52	33	153	133	63	60	19	18	25	18	3	3	315	265
British Provinces,	61	53	27	24	46	60	21	18	50	56	5	5	210	216
Other Countries, .	31	25	4	8	5	3			3	1			41	39
Unknown,	42	35	52	46	43	41	31	28	14	13	9	11	191	174
	1601	1601	1076	1076	1691	1691	617	617	609	609	58	58	5652	5652

RECAPITULATION.

New England States.

Fathers, 1583.

Mothers, 1623.

Other American States.

Fathers, 128.

Mothers, 109.

Foreign Countries and unknown.

Fathers, 3941.

Mothers, 3920.

† No. 1. Part north of State, Court and Cambridge streets.

" 2. Part west of Washington, south of Court and Cambridge streets.

" 3. Part east of Washington, south of State street.

" 4. South Boston, except City Institutions.

" 5. East Boston and Islands.

" 6. City Institutions at South Boston and Deer Island.

As usual, districts 1, 2, and 3 exhibit the greatest fecundity; although compared with the previous year, the 1st and 3d show a slight decrease.

There are recorded 36 instances of twin-births. In 1853, there were 51.

There were seven births in a single house in Oliver street (3d district), and the same number in one in Orange street (2d district). In another house in the former street there were five; while quite a number of tenements in the same neighborhood added to the population the less imposing numbers of three and four each.

The following is a comparative statement of the Births in the various districts for the last five years:—

					1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.
In district 1 there were born,	-				1618	1632	1549	1656	1612
“ 2 “ “	-				952	875	961	974	1084
“ 3 “ “	-				1716	1574	1646	1728	1701
“ 4 “ “	-				487	553	544	573	621
“ 5 “ “	-				408	594	493	562	612
“ 6 “ “	-				98	110	115	103	58
					<hr/> 5279	<hr/> 5338	<hr/> 5308	<hr/> 5596	<hr/> 5688

MARRIAGES.

During the, year the intentions of marriage of 3,329 couples (in each case one or both parties having been represented as residing in Boston) were entered, and certificates issued. This number exceeds that issued in 1853 by 237.

Within the same period, 3,128 marriages were recorded, being 473 more than were recorded up to the same time in the previous year.

As usual, the foreign element predominates, in the ratio of about 3 to 2; that is, to every two Americans who enter wedlock, there are three foreigners who do the same. Of the whole number of these last, the Irish bear a proportion of nearly 2 to 1.

Of the males married, 2,422 were actual residents of Boston; 519 resided in other towns in the State, and 187 belonged to other States.

Of the females, 2,619 resided in Boston, 415 belonged to other towns in the State, and 94 resided out of the State.

Included in the above non-residents were 381 couples, who received certificates in other towns, or came from other States. The previous year there were 334 non-resident couples.

Of the males, 2,717 are first marriages, being nearly 87 per cent. of the whole number recorded; 368 had been married once before; 27 were candidates for matrimony a third time; while one enterprising individual appears successful in a fourth trial. Of sixteen others who came from other towns, with scantily filled certificates, no particulars are reported.

Of the females, 2,819 are first marriages, being a little over 90 per cent. of the whole number recorded;

284 were widows, and 9 had been twice widowed. The condition of 16 is unknown, they having come from other towns.

There were but 20 males married who were under 20 years of age, and 13 who were over 60. The year before there were 62 married under 20 years of age.

There were 528 females who had not reached their twentieth year, being 65 less than the number recorded the year before, and making nearly 17 per cent. of the whole number; while three above 60 years of age were called on to repeat the marriage vows a third time.

The youngest female married was one of 15 years, the only one of that age, and 63 of 17. The remainder were 18 and upwards.

Of colored persons, there were 28 males and 26 females married; two of the former marrying white females.

Registrars and Town Clerks are forbidden to issue certificates to males under 21 years of age, and to females under 18, without the consent of their parents or guardians, if any such reside within the State. Attempts are often made by persons not of legal age to obtain marriage certificates; doubtless some are successful, by misrepresenting their ages. The utmost care, however, is taken to guard against imposition; and in no doubtful case have the precautions enjoined by the statute been dispensed with.

As a general thing, clergymen are mindful of the duty enjoined on them by law, requiring them to return to this office on or before the 10th day of each month, the certificates of such marriages as they have solemnized the preceding month. A few have not been as prompt as could have been wished, and some inconvenience has been experienced in consequence.

II. Table showing the MARRIAGES RECORDED, with the Nativity of the Parties, the Number of Times Married, and their Ages at Time of Marriage.

Birthplaces.		Males.	Females.	Birthplaces.		Males.	Females.
Boston, -	-	247	421	Ireland, -	-	1201	1391
Massachusetts (except Boston), -	-	365	278	England, -	-	150	88
Remainder of New England, -	-	541	470	Scotland, -	-	48	31
Other American States, -	-	109	55	Germany, -	-	175	133
Unknown (probably N. E.), -	-	14	11	British Provinces, -	-	184	205
				Other Foreign Places, -	-	94	45
		1276	1235			1852	1893

Sexes.	No. of Times Married.			Age at Time of Marriage.								
	1.	2.	3.	Unknown.	Under 20.	20 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	Over 60.	Unknown.
Males,	2717	368	27*	16	20	1161	1113	620	139	45	13	17
Females,	2819	284	9	16	528	1484	696	328	51	18	3	20

* One of these was a fourth marriage.

MORTALITY OF THE YEAR.

By referring to the Table of "Causes of Death in Boston," it will be seen that a large number of the deaths are ascribed to "Disease of the Bowels," "Disease of the Brain," &c.; terms which really furnish no other information than that the cause of death existed in those parts. This vagueness in the record is consequent upon the present method of reporting deaths.

Funeral undertakers are required to ascertain and report the following particulars concerning all whose funerals they superintend: viz., name of the deceased, date of death, age, street and number where death occurred, sex, married or single, occupation, place of birth, parents' names, cause of death, &c. Most of these particulars are easily obtained; but often it is found impossible to ascertain anything more definite concerning the disease, or cause of death, than that it is "of the bowels," or "the brain," as the case may be. Sometimes the age of the deceased person cannot be learned, for the best of all reasons, that none of his friends know it; and it is frequently very doubtful whether, if he were alive, the matter would be in a more satisfactory condition. The unreliability of the reports in these two particulars,—cause of death and age, of course greatly lessens the value of the statistics connected with them. In New York, it is made the duty of physicians to report the particulars above named; and an examination of the able and elaborate Reports of the City Inspector will show, that so far as the specification of the exact cause of death is concerned, the system pursued there is more satisfactory than ours can be.

The difficulty of obtaining reliable reports in the way now prescribed by statute, may be seen by the statement of a single fact—one of several that occurred last year. An undertaker belonging to a neighboring city reported the death of a child as follows:—"Julia —, aged 5 mos. 16 days, daughter of Richard and Alice, died of Inflammation of the Lungs, buried at Cambridge," &c. Two days afterwards, another out of town undertaker reported that "John, aged 6 mos., son of Richard and Alice, died of Dropsy in the Head,—buried at Dorchester," &c. The two reports referred to the same child, and the explanation is:—The first undertaker was engaged to inter the child at Cambridge, and he reported it as above stated. Subsequently, the father changed his mind in reference to the place of burial, and the report of the other undertaker was the result. The difference in the two reports in regard to the sex, and cause of death of the child, was doubtless owing to the unintelligent sources of their information.

Sometimes returns very gravely state, that A or B died of "fits." Investigation has shown that said "fits" were delirium tremens, convulsions, or apoplexy. No amount of guessing, certainly, could determine which it should be.

It will thus be seen, that statistics "coming in such a questionable shape," must necessarily be more or less unreliable. It is hoped, therefore, that the City Council will deem the subject a matter worthy of consideration, and adopt some method by which the defect may be remedied.

The Tables herewith submitted, show that 4,441 persons died in the City of Boston during the year 1854; an increase of mortality over that of the preceding year of only 157. Deducting from this number

all that died from external causes, such as casualties &c., which amounted to 180, there remain but 4,261 that died from disease alone.

The aggregate ages of those that died, amount to 93,303 years, averaging 21 years to each individual.

The number of males that died is 2,294. Their aggregate ages amount to 45,816 years, averaging 19.97 years to each.

The number of females that died is 2,147. Their aggregate ages amount to 47,487 years, averaging 22.11 years to each, and showing a difference in their favor over the males of about two years.

During the year there died 601 married males, being 26.19 per cent. of all the males that died; and 84 widowers, being 3.66 per cent.

Of married females, 528 are reported, being 24.59 per cent. of the whole number of females that died; and 258 widows, being a little more than 3 to 1 over the number of males of the same condition, and comprising 12 per cent. of the whole number of females that died.

Seventy-eight colored persons are reported as having died; their united ages amount to 1,857 years, averaging 25 years to each person, being a difference in their favor of nearly 4 years each over the whites.

The aggregate ages of the colored males amount to 882 years, averaging 21 years to each, being one year in their favor over the white males.

The united ages of the colored females amount to 975 years, averaging 27 years to each person, and being 5 years in favor of colored over white females.

Of colored males under one year, four are reported; colored females, 6. From 1 to 5, 14 males, and 7 females.

But 4 colored persons are reported to have died of cholera; 2 males, and 2 females.

The deaths in the various districts are as follows:—

In District 1	there died	-	-	-	-	1261
" " 2	" "	-	-	-	-	769
" " 3	" "	-	-	-	-	1204
" " 4	" "	-	-	-	-	425
" " 5	" "	-	-	-	-	362
" " 6	" "	-	-	-	-	312
" " 7	" "	-	-	-	-	108
						<hr/> 4441

It will be remembered that districts 1 and 3 embrace the North end, and the neighborhood of Sea, Cove, and Broad Streets, and the locality known as "Fort Hill," places that contain the great bulk of our foreign-born population.

A comparison of the deaths with the births, for the last five years, according to the above districts, may be of interest to consider in this connection:

Districts.	Births.					Deaths.				
	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.
1	1618	1632	1549	1656	1612	982	1045	1007	1125	1261
2	952	875	961	974	1084	696	708	608	821	769
3	1716	1574	1646	1728	1701	959	979	1082	1138	1204
4	487	553	544	573	621	281	313	322	371	425
5	408	594	493	562	612	224	281	276	338	362
6	98	110	115	103	58	454	433	361	409	312
7						71	96	80	82	108
	<hr/> 5279	<hr/> 5338	<hr/> 5308	<hr/> 5596	<hr/> 5688	<hr/> 3667	<hr/> 3855	<hr/> 3736	<hr/> 4284	<hr/> 4441

It will thus be seen, that since 1850 the excess of births over deaths has been gradually diminishing. In 1850, the excess was 1,612; in 1851, it was 1,483; in 1852, it was 1,572; in 1853, it had decreased to 1,312; and in 1854 it was reduced to 1,247.

III. *Showing the DEATHS IN BOSTON on each day of the year 1854, as reported by Funeral Undertakers and others.*

DAY.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
1	11	6	21	12	4	9	14	21	14	7	12	9
2	13	12	15	8	13	9	9	18	15	11	5	6
3	14	8	9	13	17	22	11	19	17	13	8	3
4	12	18	17	12	6	9	18	19	10	14	2	12
5	23	12	15	15	11	10	49	27	25	7	5	8
6	18	15	11	18	9	13	20	20	17	11	14	7
7	14	13	10	18	10	15	9	17	14	11	10	8
8	11	13	11	17	10	7	19	13	11	9	9	3
9	12	12	11	9	11	10	23	17	18	10	11	6
10	16	11	12	14	13	15	13	26	8	9	6	4
11	20	16	8	26	7	13	14	15	11	13	12	11
12	12	19	15	8	10	17	17	16	17	10	16	10
13	7	11	8	6	17	12	15	13	17	6	7	9
14	8	10	18	11	16	13	7	18	11	11	5	7
15	7	14	14	17	12	11	12	13	11	7	5	15
16	11	14	18	10	6	14	16	15	15	1	6	5
17	12	6	13	14	13	6	11	11	10	7	11	11
18	11	15	11	17	7	9	17	18	11	13	7	12
19	17	10	15	9	7	13	17	22	17	8	9	10
20	17	10	13	14	10	7	17	18	15	11	10	9
21	18	11	9	13	10	11	14	27	7	7	3	10
22	12	16	9	21	5	6	14	14	11	10	7	3
23	13	19	5	23	7	16	17	19	8	12	12	4
24	10	6	10	8	9	13	11	22	12	7	14	11
25	15	14	8	11	5	9	20	13	8	4	12	11
26	9	18	16	16	16	13	14	19	14	10	5	9
27	16	10	10	15	16	12	13	17	14	5	11	8
28	13	11	11	16	11	14	17	21	10	4	10	9
29	15		12	10	10	10	15	12	12	8	7	8
30	11		4	11	11	11	21	9	13	9	13	9
31	12		14		11		12	19		8		6
	410	350	373	412	320	349	496	548	393	273	264	253

IV. Diseases and Causes of Death in Boston in 1854.

DISEASES.	January.		February.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.		December.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Abscess, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Accidents, -	9	1	1	2	6	1	2	-	5	1	10	1	3	-	11	1	2	5	3	-	5	-	3	-	68
Anemia, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Aneurism, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	3	1	3	2	2
Apoplexy, -	4	2	1	-	-	5	4	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Asthma, -	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Bowels, inflam. of	-	3	3	1	2	1	6	2	2	3	5	3	5	4	2	2	1	2	3	4	1	1	2	1	52
" " disease of,	-	2	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	3	6	7	8	4	1	1	1	1	1	48
Brain, inflam. of,	-	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	6	3	5	1	4	3	1	2	6	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	59
" " congestion of,	3	1	2	2	2	2	6	2	2	3	3	2	4	5	8	1	3	1	3	5	3	1	2	2	66
" " concussion of,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
" " disease of,	1	3	2	2	3	2	5	2	1	1	1	2	4	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	40
Bronchitis, -	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Burns and scalds, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Cancer, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Catarrh, -	1	3	1	1	4	1	1	2	3	1	-	1	-	-	2	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chicken pox, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cholera, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cholera infantum, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
" " morbus, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Colic, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	261
Consumption, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	82
Convulsions, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Croup, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Cyanosis, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	752
Debility, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	156
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	145
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48

Table IV. continued.

DISEASES.	January.		February.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.		December.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Diabetes, -	1	1	4	2	1	3	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	1	7	3	4	6	2	2	2	1	1	8	2
Diarrhea, -	1	1	18	13	11	8	19	1	11	15	9	9	12	9	21	17	16	10	13	5	11	12	4	54	
Diseases infantile, -	16	6	6	6	1	4	9	9	7	7	4	4	4	4	3	3	2	2	3	3	6	1	4	294	
“ puerperal, -	2	3	3	1	3	1	1	4	3	3	1	2	2	2	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	31	
“ unknown, -	6	3	4	3	1	4	4	4	4	4	9	11	5	5	9	8	1	3	3	1	5	2	4	69	
Dropsy, -	4	9	11	6	10	8	1	8	2	3	3	3	6	2	6	4	4	9	6	1	2	5	4	166	
“ in head, -	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	13	6	28	16	17	7	7	10	6	3	1	44	
Drowned, -	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	4	3	149	
Dysentery, -	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	4	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	30	
Epilepsy, -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	
Erysipelas, -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	
Exhaustion, -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
Exposure, -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	30	
Fevers (not classed), -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	
“ bilious, -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	
“ typhus, -	1	1	1	1	2	1	4	2	4	5	1	3	3	2	2	5	1	5	4	2	4	7	1	38	
“ typhoid, -	1	7	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	6	6	1	2	2	1	4	5	1	3	4	6	5	64	
“ scarlet, -	3	3	5	2	6	6	4	1	3	4	5	5	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	5	5	65	
Fracture, -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	
Frozen, -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Gravel, -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	
Hemorrhage, -	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	4	2	2	4	24	
Hernia, -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	5	6	4	4	1	5	7	7	4	4	1	1	4	4	
Heart, disease of, -	9	1	1	2	2	2	3	5	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	83	
Hip, “ -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	
Hooping cough, -	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	6	1	1	2	2	1	1	4	2	1	4	1	4	4	1	3	56	

[illegible]

Table IV. continued.

DISEASES.	January.		February.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.		December.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Suffocation,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	11	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	4
Sun stroke,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	13	11	10	16	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Syphilis,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Teething,	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	9	7	4	3	-	2	11	7	3	2	8	12	7	6	4	6	6	181
Thrush,	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	1	1	1	38	
Tumor,	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	2	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	14
Ulcers,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Worms,	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	13

The following table, exhibiting the principal causes of death, during the last six years, and the birthplaces and parentage of those who died in 1854, presents the record of mortality in an interesting light. In all estimates connected with the mortuary statistics of Boston, a city that contains a foreign-born population nearly equal to that of the native-born, the consideration of the fact of parentage should not be omitted. The localities that the former occupy, together with their habits, &c., justify the exhibition in this distinct form:—

	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	Native.	Foreign	Foreign Parentage.
Accidents, - - -	64	36	69	73	73	68	15	41	12
Apoplexy, - - -	22	27	32	23	20	36	24	12	
Bowels, inflammation of, -	53	62	68	117	84	52	23	18	11
“ disease of, -	264	141	145	41	39	48	16	7	25
Brain, inflammation of, -	15	31	45	47	58	59	26	20	13
“ congestion of, -	25	15	20	25	38	66	25	7	34
“ disease of, - -	50	45	31	37	55	40	29	6	5
Cholera, - - -	611	1	5			261	38	187	36
“ morbus, - - -	47	7	15	11	33	23	10	6	7
“ infantum, - - -	69	36	75	70	134	82	39	1	42
Consumption, - - -	644	586	669	681	733	752	281	432	39
Convulsions, - - -	86	129	133	122	120	156	26	8	122
Croup, - - -	72	87	87	112	181	145	62	4	79
Debility, - - -	39	22	22	17	17	48	15	33	
Dropsy, - - -	74	72	52	67	74	69	30	34	5
“ in head, - - -	157	157	158	155	157	166	60	5	101
Diseases, infantile, -	328	251	316	283	318	294	82		212
“ puerperal, - - -	72	38	44	47	60	58	7	51	
Diarrhœa, - - -	118	48	56	56	32	54	21	20	13
Dysentery, - - -	277	136	132	113	129	149	40	64	45
Drowned, - - -	31	23	38	26	30	44			
Erysipelas, - - -	59	65	33	26	32	30	21	8	1
Fever, typhus, - - -	119	61	88	46	44	38	12	26	
“ typhoid, - - -	30	43	82	66	67	64	42	20	3
“ scarlet, - - -	317	69	50	269	229	65	29	8	28
Heart, disease of, - -	82	52	86	79	78	83	39	36	8
Hooping cough, - - -	36	81	54	51	64	56	18	3	35
Intemperance, - - -	15	12	17	22	28	45	15	30	
Liver, disease of, - -	16	29	28	27	36	38	14	22	2
Lungs, inflammation of, -	113	290	262	226	245	260	106	60	94
Marasmus, - - -	79	91	106	96	130	106	56	16	34
Measles, - - -	29	75	145	29	144	136	34	9	93
Old age, - - -	95	80	79	78	98	84	49	35	
Palsy, - - -	27	33	28	39	45	43	23	19	1
Pleurisy, - - -	25	17	20	24	36	41	7	32	2
Scrofula, - - -	19	8	13	26	22	27	13	6	8
Small pox, - - -	21	192	63	12	6	118	43	32	43
Teething, - - -	161	108	116	137	196	181	31	3	147
Thrush, - - -	30	36	25	28	32	38	32	1	5
Totals, - - -							1453	1322	1305

It will be seen by the foregoing statement, that from only seven diseases—viz. Apoplexy, Disease of the Brain, Erysipelas, Old Age, Palsy, Thrush, and Typhoid Fever,—was the mortality among native-born persons greater than among foreigners and their children, united. The great disparity between the deaths of foreigners and Americans from Disease of Bowels, Congestion of Brain, Cholera, Consumption, Convulsions, Croup, Debility, Dropsy in the Head, Infantile Diseases, Dysentery, Hooping Cough, Inflammation of the Lungs, Marasmus, Measles, Teething, and Puerperal diseases, is most striking and suggestive.

As usual, *Consumption* appears as the prime destroyer,—numbering 752 as its victims,—an increase of 19 over the number of any previous year, being nearly 17 per cent., or one-sixth of the whole number of deaths. The deaths of Irish males and females, and American females, are very nearly equal; while those of each class are very nearly double those of American males. Of the foreign-born that died of Consumption, 400 were Irish (including 30 children of Irish parents), 14 English, 10 Germans, 6 Scotch, and 31 were born in the British Provinces.

Of *Cholera*, 261 cases are reported. The first death in Boston from this malady occurred on the 10th of June, in Fleet street. The victim was an Irish laborer. By referring to the foregoing table, it will be seen that only 38 of those who died of Cholera were born here, not including 36 children of foreign parents, being about 1 to 6, compared with foreigners and their children. An examination of the localities to which the disease was mostly confined, will give to this great disparity a striking significance.

There were but few cases in which the predisposing cause could not be easily traced to filthy and ill-venti-

lated dwelling places, to gross personal habits, or to imprudence in diet. Considering the character of Sea, Cove, Broad, Ann, and similar crowded streets and lanes at the North end, it is not strange that the disease should have swept off, in many cases, four members of the same family. The wonder is that, dwelling together in such numbers, and manifesting such a lamentable want of judgment in their mode of living, and disregard of personal cleanliness, more victims from this class of our population were not found. However Cholera may be controlled or affected by medical treatment, one thing is certain,—its greatest fatality was seen in conjunction with impurities, which involves the conviction, that where cleanliness and propriety in habits prevail, comparative impunity from the effects of the scourge may be reasonably anticipated. Of the foreigners who died of Cholera, 175 were born in Ireland, 5 in Germany, 5 in the British Provinces, one in England, and one in Scotland.

Of the 58 deaths from Puerperal diseases, only seven were of persons born in America. This fact is an interesting one, and shows that American women are either less delicate and frail than foreign tourists love to represent them, or that they are more careful and prudent before and subsequent to parturition than foreign-born women.

The uniformity in the number of several of the diseases for the five years is remarkable,—Debility, Dropsy, and Dropsy in the Head being the most notable instances.

V. General Abstract of the BILL OF MORTALITY of the Year 1854, as reported at the City Registrar's Office, showing the Deaths each Month, with the Sex and Ages of the Deceased.

Months.	Stillborn.				Under 1 yr.		1 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		Over 90.		Totals.	
	M.	F.	Un.	Total	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Jan.	8	4	0	12	48	42	44	51	9	14	2	6	7	6	22	20	28	18	19	12	9	12	9	9	6	12	2	3	0	0	205	205
Feb.	12	8	0	20	46	40	52	45	6	7	1	3	3	7	21	23	22	18	7	9	7	8	8	7	5	3	1	1	0	0	179	171
March,	13	6	8	27	47	22	65	48	11	10	3	6	4	6	18	29	20	15	14	14	12	6	6	7	5	5	0	5	0	0	200	173
April,	8	5	6	19	57	36	54	42	10	10	4	6	9	10	27	28	25	21	11	11	5	7	8	8	4	5	3	4	0	0	221	191
May,	16	9	3	28	38	38	28	40	7	4	2	1	4	8	22	24	18	23	9	15	3	8	7	7	4	6	1	3	0	0	143	177
June,	12	4	0	16	36	25	39	32	9	6	7	6	4	3	28	31	30	30	16	10	5	3	12	9	4	8	0	4	0	2	190	159
July,	11	9	1	21	50	42	42	42	9	11	3	3	6	6	40	38	41	35	21	24	22	19	11	14	6	5	2	2	1	1	254	242
Aug.	7	14	3	24	86	62	49	52	14	6	5	4	10	9	28	34	30	36	36	26	16	8	9	12	1	6	3	5	0	1	287	261
Sept.	8	10	3	21	56	44	49	34	4	7	7	7	6	6	21	26	20	24	19	16	10	8	5	10	3	8	0	1	0	3	200	193
Oct.	7	7	1	15	32	26	32	22	5	3	2	1	7	14	12	26	15	15	16	11	8	5	6	5	2	3	0	5	0	0	187	186
Nov.	11	10	1	22	26	28	30	13	5	4	1	0	3	7	19	21	19	16	8	8	6	7	5	5	5	3	0	1	0	1	150	114
Dec.	10	7	.1	18	29	26	24	36	6	6	1	1	3	4	20	23	20	9	9	7	7	2	2	7	4	3	3	1	0	0	128	125
Totals,	123	93	27	243	551	431	508	457	95	88	38	44	66	86	273	310	293	267	203	163	93	90	100	49	67	15	35	1	6	2294	2147	

* This person was 102 years of age; the only centenary death during the year.

Previous to 1853, the published reports do not indicate the sex of stillborn infants in Boston. Comparing the number of those born during the last three years, with those of the three preceding years, it will be seen, from the following, that there is a difference of 57 in favor of the former period:—

				Male.	Female.	Unknown.
In 1849 there were born	-					250
" 1850 " "	-	-				256
" 1851 " "	-	-				236—742
" 1852 " "	-	-				221
" 1853 " "	-	-	130	82		9
" 1854 " "	-	-	123	93		276—85
Decrease	-	-	†	-	-	57

By an analysis of Table V., we shall ascertain the following facts:—

Whole number of deaths, 4,441. Of these,

Under 1 year, there died	-	982, being 22.11 per cent.
1 to 5 years, " "	-	965, " 21.72 "
5 to 10 " "	-	183, " 4.12 "
10 to 15 " "	-	82, " 1.84 "
15 to 20 " "	-	152, " 3.42 "
20 to 30 " "	-	583, " 13.12 "
30 to 40 " "	-	560, " 12.6 "
40 to 50 " "	-	366, " 8.24 "
50 to 60 " "	-	205, " 4.61 "
60 to 70 " "	-	190, " 4.27 "
70 to 80 " "	-	116, " 2.61 "
80 to 90 " "	-	50, " 1.12 "
90 and upwards, " "	-	7, " .15 "

One of these last was a female of 102 years of age,—the only centenary death during the year.

A comparison of the above statement with the percentage of each class of those that died in 1853, may be properly introduced here, as it exhibits considerable

variation in the two records concerning the same classes :—

Whole number of deaths in 1853, 4,284. Of these,

Under 1 year, there died - 1064, being 24.83 per cent.

1 to 5 years, “ - - 1074, “ 25.07 “

5 to 10 “ “ - - 196, “ 4.57 “

10 to 15 “ “ - - 71, “ 1.65 “

15 to 20 “ “ - - 131, “ 3.05 “

20 to 30 “ “ - - 456, “ 10.64 “

30 to 40 “ “ - - 421, “ 9.82 “

40 to 50 “ “ - - 289, “ 6.74 “

50 to 60 “ “ - - 213, “ 4.97 “

60 to 70 “ “ - - 181, “ 4.22 “

70 to 80 “ “ - - 116, “ 2.7 “

80 to 90 “ “ - - 63, “ 1.47 “

90 and upwards, “ - - 9, “ .21 “

Of those that died under 1 year, in 1854, 330 were of American parents, 641 of foreign parents (being nearly 2 to 1 compared with the former), and 11 were unknown. Of those that were between 1 and 5, 288 were of American parents, and 677 of foreign parents,—being considerably more than 2 to 1 in favor of children of native-born parents. Some years ago the notion was quite prevalent, that those children whose homes might be properly considered to be the streets, and whose hands and faces rarely betrayed any close intimacy with soap and water, were far more healthy than those whose parents were accustomed to insist on a liberal application of water to person and raiment. That notion is not yet extinct, as the following extract from a journal, published in August last, will show. The writer is a physician:—“A clear examination of the subject, we doubt not, would show that it is chiefly among those who are surrounded with all the comforts, and, in many instances, with the luxuries which riches command, that infantile diseases find their most numerous and unresisting victims.” However true the fore-

going remark may be in regard to other portions of the country, it is certainly not true of Boston, as the death of the above 641 children, under one year of age (who will not be considered as having been surrounded "with the luxuries which riches command"), will testify.

VI. Showing the NATIVITY of those who died in Boston in 1854, together with that of their Parents, as nearly as can be ascertained.

Places of Birth.		Males.	Females.	Birthplaces of Parents.	
Boston	-	1128	1015	New England	-
Massachusetts (except Boston)	-	189	160	Other American States	-
Remainder of New England	-	161	184	England	-
Other States	-	53	44	Ireland	-
England	-	38	31	Scotland	-
Ireland	-	575	605	Germany and North of Europe	-
Scotland	-	13	6	Other Foreign Places	-
Germany and North of Europe	-	44	20	British Provinces	-
British Provinces	-	51	52	Unknown	-
Other Foreign Places	-	18	9		
At Sea	-	1	2	Total	-
Unknown	-	23	19		
Total	-	2294	2147		4441

VII. *Showing the AGGREGATE AND AVERAGE AGES of 796 men who died in 1854, whose professions and occupations were ascertained.*

No.	Profession or Occupation.	Ages ranging from	Aggregate Ages.	Average Ages.
				Years.
408	Laborers - - -	16 to 78	15,969	39.13
62	Mariners - - -	16 " 73	2,245	36.20
41	Clerks - - -	16 " 72	1,222	29.80
35	Carpenters - - -	18 " 77	1,568	44.8
31	Tailors - - -	19 " 65	1,126	36.32
26	Merchants - - -	22 " 89	1,238	47.61
19	Teamsters - - -	21 " 65	702	36.94
19	Traders - - -	24 " 72	849	44.68
17	Painters - - -	27 " 71	750	44.11
15	Machinists - - -	18 " 70	524	34.93
15	Printers - - -	21 " 78	498	33.2
14	Blacksmiths - - -	21 " 78	564	40.28
16	Shoemakers - - -	18 " 65	670	41.87
12	Masons - - -	19 " 74	575	47.91
10	Gentlemen - - -	28 " 76	605	60.5
8	Physicians - - -	34 " 79	418	52.25
6	Coopers - - -	35 " 57	292	48.66
6	Cabinet Makers - - -	22 " 94	281	46.83
6	Ship Carpenters - - -	30 " 80	320	53.33
6	Grocers - - -	27 " 84	295	49.16
5	Tinsmiths - - -	19 " 38	151	30.2
4	Barbers - - -	17 " 77	174	43.5
4	Bakers - - -	21 " 35	118	29.5
4	Stonecutters - - -	21 " 59	175	43.75
4	Farmers - - -	16 " 81	241	60.25
3	Clergymen - - -	53 " 68	182	60.66
796			31,752	39.88

It will be seen that 408 laborers are recorded as having died, being 9.18 per cent. of the whole number of deaths. Their average age was 39.13 years. The large mortality among this class is an impressive commentary on their mode of living, and indicates that the competency of their physical organization to resist disease is more apparent than real. The Irish laborer is often referred to as affording a good specimen of a healthy organization. The above result shows, at the least, that the most rugged, and apparently the strongest physical constitutions are no match in a contest with exposure, fetid atmospheres, or chronic uncleanness.

Those who attained to the greatest average age, of the professions above specified, were clergymen; showing very clearly that "the cloth" cannot complain that as much of life is not seen by them as falls to the lot of any other class. Their average age is 60.66.

Farmers, who have ever been a favored class in respect to longevity, come next, and show an average of 60.25.

Bakers appear in the most unfavorable light in this year's table, reaching to an average age of only 29.5, while clerks are but a little beyond them.

Printers, who somehow or other are regarded generally as a very short-lived race, reach 33.2,—certainly not the lowest, by three, in the above list.

Ten gentlemen reach the average age of 60.5, showing, probably, that ease and comfort, after a life of toil and industry, are perfectly compatible with continued existence.

On the whole, the result indicated in the above table is not favorable, compared with that of the preceding year. There is a diminution in the average age of the aggregate classes, from 42.71 years in the latter, to 39.88 in the former.

VIII. Table showing the BIRTHS, INTENTIONS OF MARRIAGE ENTERED, MARRIAGES RECORDED, and DEATHS for each month of the years 1850—1854 inclusive.

Months.	Births.					Intentions of Marriage.					Marriages Recorded.					Deaths.				
	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.
January, -	369	434	472	448	464	215	263	262	336	304	168	281	254	320	317	313	302	280	357	410
February, -	352	397	436	409	448	101	223	217	192	280	151	253	239	211	296	294	306	263	317	350
March, -	453	499	464	497	474	158	133	153	194	139	74	168	125	146	115	350	326	293	339	373
April, -	415	408	440	449	472	147	222	259	291	243	190	197	222	266	210	296	294	272	339	412
May, -	435	403	393	418	429	242	286	242	249	299	271	267	224	267	283	301	331	242	330	320
June, -	416	424	434	408	431	229	216	222	227	265	231	223	207	211	257	279	290	244	263	349
July, -	493	458	451	488	509	216	246	221	213	245	212	228	214	221	245	271	320	365	383	496
August, -	434	478	464	494	519	209	214	204	255	256	193	226	203	216	231	396	409	433	503	548
September, -	489	439	404	433	482	221	306	243	278	333	235	251	236	242	253	328	376	372	436	593
October, -	466	448	445	484	507	282	316	295	305	361	277	300	274	265	343	261	290	306	316	273
November, -	480	456	432	547	472	323	309	320	322	360	348	320	321	340	395	269	289	330	333	264
December, -	477	492	473	521	481	214	219	239	230	244	183	173	167	150	183	309	322	336	363	253
	5279	5338	5308	5596	5688	2557	2953	2877	3092	3329	2533	2887	2686	2855	3128	3667	3855	3736	4284	4441

INTERMENTS.

The places of interment of those who died in Boston during the year are the following :—

<i>City Proper.</i>		<i>Out of Town.</i>	
Central Ground (Common)	- 138	Cambridge †	- - - 1245
Charter street Cemetery *	- 21	Charlestown †	- - - 136
Copp's Hill (old & new grounds) *	127	Deer Island	- - - 168
Granary Ground *	- 1	Dorchester †	- - - 364
King's Chapel Ground *	- 3	Forest Hills Cemetery	- - 123
Park street Cemetery *	- 1	Mount Auburn Cemetery	- - 200
South Ground (on the Neck)	- 304	Mount Hope	" - - 30
St. Paul's Cemetery *	- 4	Rainsford Island	- - 53
		Roxbury †	- - - 34
<i>South Boston.</i>		Watertown †	- - - 205
Hawes Ground - - -	- 42	Woodlawn Cemetery	- - 47
House of Correction - -	- 15	Other places in the State	- - 312
Roman Catholic Ground * †	- 202	Places out of the State	- - 152
St. Matthew's Cemetery *	- 22	Places unknown	- - 9
Union Ground - - -	- 18		
<i>East Boston.</i>		Total Interments out of Boston	- 3078
City Ground - - -	- 454		
Jews' Ground - - -	- 11		
Total Interments in the City,	1363		

Interments are no longer allowed in the places marked by an asterisk (*). A few bodies, however, have been temporarily deposited in the Copp's Hill Ground, by special permission of his Honor the Mayor, with the understanding that such bodies should be removed the coming spring; and a few have been allowed to be deposited in the Roman Catholic ground at South Boston. The places marked by an obelisk (†) are Roman Catholic cemeteries.

It will be seen that the South and the Central grounds are the only places in the city proper where interments are allowed. The Union ground and the Hawes' ground, at South Boston, are the only places that remain for that portion of the city, and the space

they can afford is very inconsiderable. The ground at East Boston is used principally for the burial of the city poor, and of those of limited means, to whom the ground is furnished gratuitously by the city.

The foregoing tabular statement shows that a little over 69 per cent. of those that died were conveyed out of the city for interment, being an increase on the number similarly disposed of the preceding year of about 6 per cent.

During the year there were removed from the various burial places in the city, for re-interment elsewhere, 212 bodies. At the same time there were brought into the city the bodies of 110 persons, who had died in other places.

FUNERAL CARS.

In no city in the Union are funerals conducted with more propriety and decorum than in Boston. The bodies of all persons of ten years and upwards, when buried within the city, must be conveyed to the grave in hearses, owned by the city, for which a fee of one dollar is charged, to be paid by the undertaker, who collects it of those employing him. This regulation was adopted evidently to ensure decorum and propriety in the arrangement of funerals, and uniformity in the mode of conveying the dead to their places of sepulture. Formerly but few of those that died in Boston were buried elsewhere; but now, when there are but few intramural interments,—and soon there will be none,—this uniformity in appearance (except in regard to burials in the city) is no longer preserved.

Within the past year several undertakers have purchased funeral cars, which they use to convey the dead to neighboring cemeteries. These cars are of a more

costly and showy character than those belonging to the city, and are invariably chosen by the friends of the deceased in preference to the latter. Several more of these private cars are now in course of construction, so that there will be, within a few weeks, a greater number in use than are now owned by the city; and, taking into consideration that intramural interments will, in all probability, entirely cease at no distant day, it may not be improper for the undersigned to direct the attention of the City Council to the subject. The present indications are, that with the closing of the city burial places, the cars belonging to the city will be thrown out of use, except in the burial of the poor, for which purpose two are amply sufficient. In such a contingency, a continuance of the present regulation concerning the conveyance of the dead, will of course involve the continued expense of the care of the city hearses, without being relieved by a corresponding income.

BURIAL GROUNDS AS PLACES OF RESORT.

For many years the burial ground on Washington street and that on Copp's Hill have been opened, at certain seasons, for the accommodation of those who desired to visit them. To render these places more attractive, they have from time to time been adorned with flowers and shrubbery, until they are now favorite places of resort with the inhabitants of either end of the city. During last summer, the ground on the Common, the Granary, and the King's Chapel Ground were likewise opened on the Sabbath, after church hours, to the expressed gratification of many who visited them. The chief attraction of these latter places are the ancient tombstones still standing there, with their

quaint epitaphs. Measures have already been taken to repair the monuments in the Chapel Ground the coming spring, and to adorn the place with flowers and shrubbery, so as to render it an ornament to that part of the city.

Perhaps it is the duty of the undersigned to state that complaints have been made by persons residing in the vicinity of the South Ground in relation to interments there. During the summer months, the effluvia proceeding from some of the tombs have been extremely offensive, so as to produce great discomfort and annoyance to those residing in the vicinity. As the tombs are all above ground, and are continually being opened for the reception of bodies, it is impossible to prevent the annoyance alluded to unless interments are forbidden there. Should this last measure be adopted, the suggestion of his Honor the Mayor, in his Inaugural, would be worthy of consideration,—viz., to remove the bodies deposited there to other cemeteries, or sink the tombs beneath the surface of the earth, and substitute an iron railing for the gloomy wall that now encloses the ground.

Respectfully submitted,

N. A. APOLLONIO.

City Registrar's Office, January 29, 1855.

REPORT

BY THE

CITY REGISTRAR,

OF THE

Births, Marriages, and Deaths,

IN THE

CITY OF BOSTON,

FOR THE YEAR

1855.



BOSTON:

MOORE & CROSBY, CITY PRINTERS—1 WATER STREET.

1856.

City Document—No. 10.

REPORT

BY THE

CITY REGISTRAR,

OF THE

Births, Marriages, and Deaths,

ERRATA.—On page 15, commencing with sixth line from bottom, instead of "This agrees with the statement," &c., read,— "This latter fact, however, does not affect the statement made elsewhere in this report, that the percentage of mortality among this portion of the community is considerably *greater* than among the whites," &c.

On page 16, 8th line from top, read "amounting to 186." 10th line from top, read, "3,894." 10th line from bottom, instead of "14.97," read, "16.33."

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BOSTON:

MOORE & CROSBY, CITY PRINTERS—1 WATER STREET.

1856.

CITY OF BOSTON.

In Common Council, Jan. 31, 1856.

Sent up.

OLIVER STEVENS, *President.*

In Board of Aldermen, Feb. 4, 1856.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Attest,

SAM'L F. McCLEARY,

City Clerk.

REPORT.

TO THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL:

The City Registrar respectfully asks to submit his Annual Report, together with such observations as seem to him worthy of attention.

It is a matter for congratulation, that the subject of Registration is receiving so much of popular attention. Its importance is appreciated not only by men of learning and ability, to whose labors its present elevated position is indebted, but it is becoming more and more understood by all classes, and its just value will, ere long, it is hoped, be generally acknowledged.

In no part of the country have Vital, or Mortality Statistics, been regarded with so much favor as in Massachusetts; and by no State has so much been done to ensure exactness in all their details. The various Reports on the subject, emanating from the State department, possess a value not equaled by those of any other State, and reflect great credit on their authors. In these Reports, the advantages to be derived from a perfect system of Registration, by all classes of the community, have frequently been set forth, and need only to be properly considered to receive general assent.

The Annual Reports of the City Registrar are designed, not only to apprise the City Council of what has been accomplished in his department the preceding

year, but to present the facts coming within his reach, in such a shape as to commend them to public attention. Those issued under the supervision of the late City Registrar have been regarded with much favor by those who have consulted them, and who appreciate the labor that is required to furnish a document of this character, and even of such brief dimensions. The same general features which characterized these Reports, have been preserved in those of his successor, who has endeavored to ensure accuracy in his statements, and to present those facts which have seemed to him justly entitled to public attention. With these few general remarks, the following statements, and observations thereon, are respectfully submitted for your consideration.

Copies of the Births, Marriages, and Deaths in the City of Boston during the year 1855, duly certified, have been forwarded to the office of the Secretary of State, as the law requires.

BIRTHS.

The duty of canvassing the City for the Births during the year, was again entrusted to Mr. George Adams, under whose supervision it has been faithfully and intelligently performed.

The annexed Table presents an increase of 128 births over the number collected the preceding year, which corresponds very nearly with the average increase of the last six years.

I. BIRTHS registered in Boston in the Year 1855.

DIVISIONS. ^o	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL.
Males, - - - -	897	531	865	362	325	25	3005
Females, - - - -	791	492	834	329	334	31	2811
Total, - - - -	1688	1023	1699	691	659	56	5816
Twins, - - - -	11	9	23	5	2		50

Birthplaces of Parents.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Fathers.	Mothers.	Total Fathers.	Total Mothers.
Boston, - - - -	118	124	103	142	74	72	46	58	25	34	3		389	430
Massachusetts (out of Boston), - - - -	119	94	150	140	84	67	60	49	54	58			467	408
Maine, - - - -	83	96	65	74	35	50	43	41	59	68	3	1	288	330
New Hampshire, - - - -	88	59	74	57	39	30	23	21	27	22		1	251	190
Vermont, - - - -	25	21	29	17	17	13	10	10	7	1	1		89	62
Connecticut, - - - -	4	4	9	5	4	6	4	6	5	2			26	23
Rhode Island, - - - -	2	5	7	14		5	1	2	3				13	28
Other American States, - - - -	43	21	47	59	24	20	3	6	14	15	3	1	134	122
England, - - - -	59	43	45	38	51	34	23	27	41	22	2	1	221	165
Scotland, - - - -	21	17	12	10	15	9	14	12	15	9	1	2	78	59
Ireland, - - - -	924	1030	253	258	1143	1198	396	405	271	303	32	37	3019	3231
France, - - - -	7	2	9	15	11	5	3		3	1	1		34	23
Spain and Portugal, - - - -	1	4	1		1		1						4	4
Germany & N. of Europe, - - - -	63	32	124	111	89	78	25	22	42	31	3	1	340	273
British Am. Provinces, - - - -	56	74	29	35	46	55	19	13	69	69	2	6	221	252
Other Foreign Countries, - - - -	26	17	17	6	6	5	1		4			1	54	29
Unknown, - - - -	38	34	40	33	37	31	14	14	18	20	5	5	152	137
	1677	1677	1014	1014	1676	1676	686	686	657	657	56	56	5766	5766

- ^o 1. North of State, Court, and Cambridge Streets.
 2. West of Washington, south of Court and Cambridge Streets.
 3. East of " " State Street.
 4. South Boston, except City Institutions.
 5. East Boston and Islands.
 6. City Institutions at South Boston and Deer Island.

The six divisions in the foregoing Table are arbitrary ones, and are simply adopted as a convenient form in which to set forth the facts therein contained.

The following statement shows the number of births in each ward, with their ratio to the population of the same:—

Wards.	Population.	Births.	Ratio.
1.....	19,264.....	764 as 1 to	25.21
2.....	15,963.....	715 " 1 "	22.32
3.....	13,175.....	469 " 1 "	28.09
4.....	7,912.....	123 " 1 "	64.32
5.....	10,428.....	340 " 1 "	30.67
6.....	11,597.....	266 " 1 "	43.60
7.....	18,430.....	750 " 1 "	24.57
8.....	12,690.....	434 " 1 "	29.24
9.....	9,541.....	308 " 1 "	30.97
10.....	12,553.....	445 " 1 "	28.20
11.....	13,264.....	511 " 1 "	25.96
12.....	17,931.....	691 " 1 "	25.95
	<hr/> 162,748	<hr/> 5,816	<hr/>

The foregoing statement indicates that the births in Boston the last year, were in the ratio of 1 to every 27.98 of the population. The greatest number of births occurred in Ward 1, but the greatest *comparative* productiveness was in Ward 2, (East Boston,) where the births were as 1 to 22.32 of its population. The ward second in productiveness is the 7th, which produced one birth to 24.57 of its population. Ward 4 exhibits the greatest comparative sterility, by furnishing one birth only to 64.32 of its residents.

There were 29 births of colored children—15 males and 14 females—being 1 to 76.55 of the colored population.

There were fifty instances of twin births. In twenty-one of these, both children were boys; in eleven, both were girls; and in the remaining eighteen, a boy and a girl in each case. Nine pairs of the twins were the children of American parents, and twenty-seven pairs belonged to Irish parents.

It will be seen, that 50.30 per cent., or more than half of the births, were children of Irish parents, while only 24.34 per cent. belonged to American parents. The number of instances in which one parent only was native born is 417,—7.16 per cent. of all the births.

II. *Showing the NATIVITY OF THE PARENTS OF THE CHILDREN born in Boston in 1855.*

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Both parents born in the United States.....	753	663	1416
One in the U. S. and one in the Br. Am. Provinces,	65	65	130
“ “ “ “ “ “ Europe.....	133	15	287
Both in the British American Provinces.....	60	45	105
One “ “ Am. Prov. and one in Europe..	78	61	139
Both in England.....	34	50	84
“ “ Scotland.....	19	8	27
“ “ Ireland.....	1497	1429	2926
“ “ Germany.....	122	113	235
“ “ Other European countries (unmixed ^c)....	24	26	50
“ “ “ “ “ (mixed [†]).....	136	132	268
One parent unknown.....	9	12	21
Both parents unknown.....	75	53	128
	3005	2811	5816

^c This term denotes, that both of the parents in each case were born in the *same* country. [†] This, that both of the parents were born in *different* countries.

MARRIAGES.

During the past year, the Intentions of Marriage of 3,061 couples were entered, a decrease of 268 from the number entered the previous year. To the present date, the number of marriages recorded that were solemnized in 1855, is 2,855—273 less than the number recorded the previous year.

Of the males, 1,159 were born in the United States, making 40.60 per cent. of the whole number; 1,110 were born in Ireland, being 38.88 per cent.; while other foreign places claim the remaining 20.52 per cent.

Of the females, 1,117 were born in America, making 39.12 per cent. of all that were married; 1,239 were born in Ireland, constituting 43.40 per cent.; the remainder being made up of females born in other foreign places.

The residence of 2,196 of the males at the time of marriage was Boston; 480 belonged to other towns in the State; and 179 came from places out of the State.

Of the females, 2,373 resided in Boston; 384 belonged to other towns in the State; and 98 were sought for beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

The number of non-resident *couples*, who either dwelt in other towns in the State, or came from other States to be married here, was 324.

Included in the whole number of marriages, are 52 couples, one or both of whom were residents of Boston, but who were married in other States. The Marriage

Act requires such parties to register their marriages within seven days after their return.

There were 35 colored couples married, in addition to nine instances, in which the grooms were colored, and the brides white. One of the first named, was that of a youth of 18, united to a girl of the same age. Another was that of a widower of 40 and a girl of 19.

An examination of the first division of the following table will show, that of the 1,159 American males married, 969 were united to American females. Of the 1,110 Irish males, 1,025 married a like number of Irish females. Anticipating the natural result of these unions, we find that only 33.94 per cent. of the prospective increase will be of purely native blood, (supposing, at the outset, that the parentage of the parties married was of that character,) while 35.90 per cent. will be of an unmixed Milesian strain. The remaining 30.16 per cent.—almost equal of itself to the Anglo-Saxon substratum—will, of course, be of an amalgamated character, wholly defiant of classification.

By the second division of the same table, it will be noticed, that 61 males under 21 years of age were married. Of this number, 40 were 20 years of age, 12 were 19, and 9 were only 18.

Of the 491 females under 20 years of age, 77 were of 18 years, 54 of 17, 24 of 16, 2 of 15, and 1 of 14. This last married a young man of 21;—they are next to the youngest *couple* married during the year. The youngest couple was that of a youth of 18 and a girl of 16.

Several instances of considerable disparity in the ages of parties married may be noticed: such as a

widower of 35 to a girl of 16; a young man under 21 to a female over 30 years; another of 26 to a widow of 40; a youth of 18 to a widow of 20; another of 20 to a widow of 28 (who brought with her two children, by the way); and several others of a similar character. One of 74 took for his third wife a widow of 44, while another chose for his *fifth* a maiden of 23!

The oldest male married (indicated in Table III. by an asterisk) was a widower of 91, who took for his wife a maiden lady of 71!

The favorite period of life at which males select their partners, seems to be that between the ages of 21 and 25. The number that married in 1855 within that period, is 1,018, or nearly 35.65 per cent. of the whole number married. A second favorite period is that between the ages of 25 and 30, when 961, or 33.66 per cent. changed their condition. A third period—that between 30 and 40—has many ardent lovers,—593 of whom, or 20.77 per cent., took to themselves help-meets.

The favorite matrimonial period for females appears to lie between the 20th and the 25th year. It will be observed, that 1,297, or nearly 45.43 per cent. of the whole number of marriages, were consummated during that interesting period. The second period is the same as that of the males,—between 25 and 30. Here, 647, or 22.66 per cent. of the females married, received their husbands. The third is that falling below the age of 20, at which time the goodly number of 491 selected their partners. A fourth period,—also a favorite with the other sex,—lies between the sober boun-

daries of 30 and 40. During this period, 593 males and 326 females changed their conditions.

Of the females under 20 years, 31 married men over 30; and three obtained husbands who had passed their fortieth year. One female between 20 and 25, married a man who was upwards of 50, while another of the same age, received a husband in a man of the mature age of 60!

Of the marriages of the males, 2,449, or 85.77 per cent. were first marriages; 2,290, or 80.21 per cent. were to maidens; 156 to widows; and three to those who had been widows twice. The number of second marriages was 373;—253 of these were to maidens; 116 to widows; and four to those who had been widows twice. Of the 25 third marriages, 14 were to maidens, 9 to widows, and one to a widow the second time, and one to a widow the third time. There was one fourth, and one fifth marriage;—the first to a maiden of 30, and the other to a maiden of 23!

The first marriages of females number 2,559, or 89.63 per cent. of the whole number. Of these, 2,290 were to single males; 253 to widowers; and 14 became *third* wives!

The condition of five couples, who came from other States, without certificates, is unknown.

III. Showing the NATIVITY of the Parties Married, with their AGES at the Time of Marriage.

BIRTHPLACES OF MALES.	BIRTHPLACES OF FEMALES.								AGES OF FEMALES.									
									AGES OF MALES.									
	United States.	Br. Provinces.	Ireland.	England.	Scotland.	Germany.	Other Foreign Places.	Unknown.	Totals.	Under 21.	21 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	Unknown.	Totals.
United States.....	969	77	81	19	6	1	6	1159	Under 21.....	33	21	6	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	61
British Am. Provinces..	45	55	40	7	7	7	.....	151	21 to 25.....	303	599	101	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	1018
Ireland.....	46	27	1025	8	4	.....	.....	111	25 " 30.....	121	501	287	50	2	.....	.....	.....	961
England.....	21	14	37	37	1	1	1	112	30 " 40.....	31	157	226	162	17	.....	.....	.....	593
Scotland.....	5	10	15	5	10	.....	.....	4	40 " 50.....	3	17	22	88	29	3	.....	.....	162
Germany.....	22	3	28	1	134	5	.....	193	50 " 60.....	.....	1	5	9	16	1	.....	.....	32
Other Foreign Places..	9	6	13	6	.....	6	27	67	60 " 70.....	.....	1	.....	1	7	1	3	.....	13
Unknown.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	14	Over 70.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	1	.....	3
At Sea.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	Unknown.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	12
Totals.....	1117	193	1199	116	28	149	39	142855	Totals.....	491	1297	647	326	73	5	4	12	2855

IV. Showing the CONDITION and PLACES OF RESIDENCE of the Parties Married.

MALES.	FEMALES—NUMBER OF TIMES MARRIED.					RESIDENCE AT TIME OF MARRIAGE.		
	1st.	2d.	3d.	4th.	Unknown.	Totals.	Males.	Females.
First Marriage.....	2290	156	3	.....	.....	2449	In Boston.....	2196
Second ".....	253	116	4	.....	.....	373	Other places in the State..	480
Third ".....	14	9	1	1	.....	25	Out of the State.....	179
Fourth ".....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Fifth ".....	1	1	.....	.....	5	1	.....	.....
Unknown.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	.....
Totals.....	2559	282	8	1	5	2855	.....	2855

MORTALITY OF THE YEAR.

The report of the mortality of the past year is submitted with regret, that greater accuracy in the specification of the causes of death was not possible. A large portion of the mortality is made up from those who received no medical attendance during their illness, and therefore no professional statement of the causes of their death was to be obtained. In such cases, the particulars required for registration were only to be derived from the most unintelligent sources; and so manifestly incorrect were many of these, that it was preferred to record the causes of death as “unknown,” rather than to duplicate the absurdity on the face of the return. As long as the present law remains in force, requiring undertakers, instead of physicians, to make returns of deaths, it is not easy to see how any amendment in this respect can be looked for. It would seem, that the correct ascertainment of the *cause* of death was one of the first objects of the Registration system; but until some other method of reporting shall be adopted, this desirable result, it is clear, cannot be looked for.

The annexed tables show, that there were 4,080 deaths in Boston in the year 1855,—361 less than the mortality of the preceding year, and 204 below that of 1853. This indicates that Boston is one of the healthiest cities in the Union. Compared with New York, whose population does not differ very materially from our own in character, the disparity between the rates of mortality of the two cities is considerable. Esti-

mating the population of the latter place at 625,000, the deaths there in 1853 (exclusive of stillborn children, which are embraced in the City Inspector's table of mortality,) were 1 to 29.58 of the population. As this result agrees very nearly with that of several preceding years, it probably does not differ essentially from that of 1855. On the other hand, the rate of mortality in Boston the past year was 1 to 39.88. In 1850 it was 1 to 37.84. According to the Sanitary Report of the City of Buffalo for the year 1854, the rate of mortality there for that year was 1 to 25.90 of the population. In Baltimore, the ratio of deaths in 1855 to the population was 1 to 39.40. Although nothing absolutely certain is intended to be predicated upon the above comparisons, certainly something is to be gathered,—sufficient to show, at least, that the sanitary condition of Boston is of a very gratifying character.

The following table shows the population of each ward, the per centage of the same to that of the whole city, the number of deaths in each ward, and their per centage to the entire mortality.

Wards.	Population.	Per ct. of Pop.	No. of Deaths.	Per ct. of Deaths.
1.....	19,264	11.83	587	14.38
2.....	15,963	9.80	479	11.74
3.....	13,175	8.09	312	7.64
4.....	7,912	4.86	135	3.30
5.....	10,428	6.40	296	7.25
6.....	11,597	7.12	160	3.92
7.....	18,430	11.32	513	12.57
8.....	12,690	7.79	356	8.72
9.....	9,541	5.86	178	4.36
10.....	12,553	7.71	238	5.83
11.....	13,264	8.15	300	7.35
12.....	17,931	11.01	526	12.89
	162,748	99.94	4080	99.95

It should be stated, that the deaths in the hospitals at Deer Island and Rainsford Island (numbering 37 and 66 respectively,) are comprised in the mortality of Ward 2; the deaths in the Massachusetts Hospital, (amounting to 101,) are counted among those of Ward 5; while the deaths in the City Institutions at South Boston (numbering 59) are placed to the credit of Ward 12. This explanation will assist the reader, in some measure, in accounting for the excess in the percentage of the deaths in each of those wards over the percentage of the population of the same.

It will be noticed, that while Ward 1 contains only 11.83 per cent. of the population of the City, its percentage of the deaths amounts to 14.38. That fact is accounted for, when it is remembered, that that part of the City comprises a large number of our foreign-born citizens. The same remark applies to Wards 7 and 8, and in some measure to Wards 2 and 12. The similar excess in Ward 5 may be accounted for by the deaths in the Massachusetts Hospital, and is not indicative of the general health of the ward.

Wards 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, and 11, present a favorable sanitary condition,—the percentage of deaths in each falling considerably below the percentage of its population. Especially is this the case in regard to Ward 6, where the bulk of the colored population reside. This agrees with the statement made elsewhere in this report, that the percentage of mortality among this portion of the community, is considerably less than among the whites. Wards 4 and 9 exhibit a fair condition of health. The first embraces portions of North and Cross Streets, and many crowded lanes and alleys

at the north-east part of the City; and the latter contains a large population in similar localities in the vicinity of the Back Bay.

The aggregate ages of all who died in Boston during the year 1855, amount to 81,130 years, averaging 19.88 years to each—a slight falling off from the average of the preceding year. If the number of those who died from casualties, &c., (amounting to 182) be deducted from the deaths by natural causes, we have the reduced number of 3,898, which indicates the actual sanitary condition of the City. This, then, gives the average of nearly 21 years.

The number of males that died is 2,084. Their aggregate ages amount to 41,177 years, allowing to each the average age of 19.75.

Of females, there died 1,996, their aggregate ages reaching 39,953 years, giving an average of 20 years to each individual. Last year's report recorded an average age of over 22 years.

The aggregate ages of those who were foreign-born, together with their children (only 209 of whom reached their fifth year) amount to a fraction over 43,405 years, which allows to each an average of only 14.97 years!

Of married males, there died 557, a decrease of 44 from the number recorded last year. This class furnish 13.65 per cent. of all the deaths, and 26.72 per cent. of the males. The deaths of 60 widowers are recorded; last year there were 84.

The mortality of married females is set down at 410, being 10 per cent. of all the deaths, and 20.54 of the females. The number of widows was 248, 10 less than died the preceding year.

Sixty-three colored persons died during the year—30 males and 33 females. The aggregate ages of these amount to a little more than 1,798 years, averaging over 28 years to each person, and being more than eight years in their favor over the whites. The males average 22.33 years, and the females 34.

Of colored males under 1 year, 7 died; females, 5; from 1 to 5, 2 males, 4 females; from 5 to 15, 2 males.

By the last census of the City, recently published, the colored population is stated to be 2,220; by that, the rate of mortality among that class is 1 to 35.23. Among the whites, the ratio is as 1 to 39.96.

There were 186 deaths from casualties, homicides, suicides, &c. Of these, 153 were males, and 33 females.

The following table purports to show the deaths on each day of the year. Doubtless there are mistakes here. Even concerning such a simple fact as reporting the dates of death, errors are often made. Except when considered in connection with meteorological observations, or in some special cases, this uncertainty is, perhaps, of no particular moment.

V. *Showing the DEATHS IN BOSTON on each day of the year 1855, as reported by Funeral Undertakers and others.*

DAY.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
1	17	8	12	8	6	10	16	13	16	10	8	15
2	11	6	12	11	7	12	18	11	17	6	13	9
3	5	10	17	6	5	4	7	13	11	8	8	7
4	7	12	10	11	6	9	10	21	7	11	5	6
5	12	7	14	8	12	11	8	14	12	13	10	9
6	7	13	9	9	14	9	2	12	7	15	11	15
7	11	12	6	7	15	11	9	15	17	8	18	11
8	6	18	15	13	12	5	5	22	21	10	7	6
9	14	8	11	14	6	10	10	16	19	12	8	10
10	8	10	14	14	10	13	9	6	20	13	14	8
11	13	18	5	10	9	8	12	21	20	15	4	6
12	11	8	15	15	16	5	6	8	22	12	7	16
13	12	6	14	7	7	8	11	16	13	10	7	17
14	8	11	10	12	13	7	11	16	10	8	6	10
15	14	11	19	16	8	7	5	23	17	11	9	16
16	19	15	13	10	5	13	17	16	11	8	7	3
17	8	13	8	7	11	9	31	24	15	15	12	8
18	9	4	14	6	2	3	13	14	8	7	6	11
19	11	13	15	13	7	11	17	8	17	9	12	7
20	12	17	10	11	11	14	9	21	10	13	6	9
21	11	10	6	15	12	10	16	16	17	6	11	8
22	11	9	15	7	6	8	14	19	18	9	11	6
23	13	9	6	9	12	8	7	21	13	12	14	9
24	9	8	22	14	2	8	15	9	17	10	11	7
25	11	15	9	9	15	9	14	24	14	13	15	10
26	10	8	7	12	16	9	12	14	15	8	8	7
27	10	15	14	11	10	6	7	17	15	10	8	13
28	9	6	11	17	9	6	17	5	3	4	9	20
29	10	—	12	8	5	11	20	17	22	12	5	10
30	10	—	7	6	14	12	8	10	8	12	14	14
31	16	—	8	—	8	—	13	18	—	10	—	13
	335	300	360	317	291	266	369	480	432	320	284	326

VI. Diseases and Causes of Death in Boston in 1855.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	January.		February.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.		December.		Totals.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Abscess.....	1	1	5	2	12	2	8	1	7	3	20	3	19	5	11	2	10	2	9	1	1	2	7	4	5
Accidents.....	7	1	5	2	12	2	8	1	7	3	20	3	19	5	11	2	10	2	9	1	12	2	7	4	152
Anemia.....	3	1	2	2	2	4	2	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	4	1	1
Apoplexy.....	3	2	2	2	2	4	2	1	3	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	4	1	37
Asthma.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Bloodvessels, dis. of.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Bladder, disease of.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Bones, disease of.....	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	6	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Bowels, inflam'n of.....	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	6	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	37
" diseases of.....	3	1	3	1	1	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	6	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	11
Brain, inflam. of.....	3	1	3	1	1	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	6	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	43
" congestion of.....	2	2	2	5	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	2	5	3	3	2	5	3	1	4	3	1	6	6	71
" disease of.....	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	3	3	21
Cancer.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
" of Liver.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
" Neck.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
" Breast.....	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
" Stomach.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
" Bowels.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
" Side.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
" Head.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
" Vagina.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
" Uterus.....	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Cholera infantum.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
" bilious.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	231
Consumption.....	31	34	33	24	33	43	30	47	31	35	34	21	24	21	28	31	33	35	18	31	21	33	27	37	9
Convulsions.....	7	10	6	7	5	3	5	6	5	6	4	2	6	7	5	10	7	4	5	7	4	6	1	1	128

Table VI. continued.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	January.		February.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		Aug ust.		September.		October.		November.		December.		Totals.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Croup.....	3	8	8	5	12	12	5	8	5	6	7	8	....	4	1	3	5	3	8	5	4	7	11	7	145
Cyanosis.....																									1
Debility.....	2	1	1	2	3	3	Debi.	5	2	2	3	4	2	1	1	5	5	5	....	....	3	1	3	4	55
Diarrhoea.....	3	1							3	1						5	2	1	....	....	1	1	....	1	22
Dropsy.....	4	4	4	4	4	3	1	4	4	1	2	2	2	10	4	6	3	5	2	3	2	5	8	8	83
" " in head.....	6	7	4	7	4	5	6	2	7	6	4	9	3	7	6	10	8	10	5	10	5	10	10	9	161
Dysentery.....		2		1	3	3	1	1	1	2	1		7	3	32	34	18	20	3	3	3	....	2	1	141
Dyspepsia.....	1																				1		1	....	7
Diabetes.....											3	....	1						2	1			....	....	3
Diseases infantile.....	9	7	17	7	10	11	13	8	13	5	10	5	14	11	22	19	15	10	14	19	11	7	13	8	278
" puerperal.....		5		2	....	5	2	2	3	3		1		6			2	....	1	....	3	....	4	4	34
" unknown.....	3		2	2	....	2	1	....	3	1	1	....	1	4	1	6	3	1	4	2	4	2	6	5	54
Epilepsy.....	1				1	3	....				5	3	2		3	....	2	1	....	....	3	1	....	4	36
Erysipelas.....		2	1	2	3	3											1	....	2	....	1		....	1	5
Fever, bilious.....				1					1								1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
" intermittent.....										1							1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
" scarlet.....	3	4	2	2	5	3	5	12	3	2	3	2	3	5	3	....	3	2	3	....	6	1	....	2	74
" typhoid.....	2			3	8	3	1	5	5	1	8	1		2	3	....	8	1	5	4	6	5	2	5	78
" typhus.....	1	1	1	1	....	1				1				1		1	1	....	2	1	....	....	....	1	12
" unknown.....		1			1																		....	....	2
Gangrene.....																							....	....	4
Gout.....	1		1		....	....			2								1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Hoopings cough.....	3	2	4	1	3	4	1	....	1	6		1	2	4	4	8	7	6	2	6	5	5	....	3	78
Homicide.....																							....	....	1
Heart, disease of.....	2				3	1	....	1		1			1	1			1	....	2	2	....	....	....	1	14
Hip, disease of.....	7	1	1	1	6	5	6	2	5	5	3	4	4	3	1	4	6	3	5	2	10	3	3	5	95
Influenza.....							1						1								2	....	2	....	5
						2	1																....	....	3

[illegible]

Table VI. continued.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	January.		February.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.		December.		Totals.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Tumor in face.....	1																								1
“ “ stomach.....	1			1																					3
“ “ thigh.....																							1		1
“ “ abdomen.....							2	1								1							1		5
“ “ neck.....		1																							1
“ “ breast.....																									1
“ “ uterus.....													1	1											2
Ulcers in side.....																									1
“ “ bowels.....		1						1												1			1		2
“ “ stomach.....																									2
“ “ throat.....																									1
Uterus, infl. of.....		1																							1
Worms.....		1		1		2	1		2	2	1							1							6
	173	162	153	147	175	185	150	167	156	135	156	110	190	179	234	246	237	195	152	168	148	136	160	166	4080

During the first eight months of the past year, the deaths were 540 less than they were during the same time the previous year; while the last four months they were 179 more. As usual, the month of August gives the largest mortality, although there was a falling off of 68 from last report.

It will be noticed, that the class of deaths denominated as "*accidents*," present a larger number than are usually recorded in our bills of mortality. Although there has been a slight increase of casualties, &c., the past year, the present augmented list is owing to the term "*accidents*" being made to embrace a large number of deaths which have heretofore been otherwise classified. There does not appear to be any good reason, why one class of accidental deaths should be designated as "*burns and scalds*,"—without specifying whether death was caused by burning or scalding,—another as "*drowned*," while all deaths resulting from collisions on railroads, or by shooting, maiming, and a dozen other ways, must be content to be recorded under the indefinite term of "*accidental*." All accidental deaths, therefore, whether by drowning, exposure, or any sudden casualty, are designated as "*accidents*."

The number whose deaths were caused by accidents, is 152,—nearly 4 per cent. of all the deaths.

Apoplexy.—Thirty-seven deaths from this cause are recorded. In each of the five years commencing with 1849, the deaths from *apoplexy* were 22, 27, 32, 23, and 20 respectively. In 1854 the number was 36, 24 being American born, the remainder foreign. In the

present table they stand, 19 of the former and 18 of the latter.

Inflammation of Bowels.—The number of deaths thus designated is 37, a decrease of 15 from the previous year's record. There were, however, in 1854, 48 specified as occurring from "*disease of the bowels*," against 11 the past year. This term is a vague one, and serves to embrace a class of cases, concerning which nothing beyond the probable seat of the disease could be ascertained. It is a matter of regret, that so large a portion of the annual mortality should bear so indefinite a designation.

The deaths from *Diseases of the Brain* amount to 135,—3.30 per cent. of all the deaths.

Cancer.—Thirty-one deaths from this cause are recorded. The location of the disease in each case is given, with the exception of one, where no more definite information could be obtained, than that the cancer was "on the head."

Cholera Infantum.—The deaths from this cause number 231, or 5.66 per cent. of all the deaths. Of this number, 63 were children of American parents, one was foreign-born, and 167 were children of foreign-born parents. The year before, there were but 82 thus reported,—149 less than appear in the present table.

Consumption.—The number of deaths from this cause the past year is 735,—17 less than occurred in 1854. Though the deaths from this disease are less, there is, in fact, a *relative* increase. The previous year the deaths from consumption made 16.93 per cent. of all the deaths. This year it constitutes upwards of 18 per

cent. From the following statement, it will be seen, that of the whole number of victims to consumption, foreigners and their children comprise 69 per cent. :

	Males.	Females.
Of persons born in the United States, there died.....	95.....	134
“ “ “ “ Ireland, “ “	186.....	187
“ “ “ “ British Provinces, “ “	16.....	15
“ “ “ “ England, “ “	13.....	5
“ “ “ “ Germany, “ “	12.....	8
“ “ “ “ Scotland, “ “	1.....	1
“ “ “ “ Other for. count's, “ “	2.....	1
“ Children of foreign parents, “ “	18.....	41
	343.....	392

Of the whole number, those born in Ireland comprise more than half. Of these last, the two sexes furnish about an equal number, while of those born in the United States, the females considerably preponderate.

The deaths from *Convulsions* number 128, exhibiting a decrease of 28 from the amount similarly reported the previous year. The children of American parents furnish only 23 of the victims.

Croup.—This disease proved fatal in 145 instances—the exact number that died from it in 1854. The children of American parents comprise only 47 of the whole number.

Debility.—Those thus designated in this year's table number 55—a slight increase over the number thus reported in 1854.

Of *Diarrhœa* and *Dysentery*, 22 and 141 are reported, respectively. There is a decrease of 32 from the first, and of 8 from the latter. It should be observed, however, that notwithstanding the difference plainly evident between these two diseases, they are not unfrequently

confounded together. The certain prevalence, or fatality of either, cannot always, therefore, be determined by the record.

Infantile Diseases.—The various diseases incident to the first days of infantile existence, proved fatal in 278 instances. Next to *Consumption*, the mortality from causes thus designated are the most numerous;—they make 6.81 per cent. of all the deaths.

There were 34 deaths from *Puerperal Diseases*, against 58 the previous year. Only 10 of these were females born in the United States.

Of *Dropsy*, 83 cases occurred, against 69 the year before. *Dropsy in the Head* presents about the same number that have been recorded in each of the preceding five years.

Epilepsy.—Ten cases of this malady are recorded, an increase of four over the number noticed in any former year.

Erysipelas proved fatal in 36 instances—about the average mortality from this cause for the last six years.

Of *Typhus*, *Typhoid*, and *Scarlet Fever*, 12, 78, and 67 deaths are reported. There is a decrease of 26 from the first; the others do not vary much from last year's report.

Intermittent Fever.—Three deaths from this cause are given;—one was that of an Irish laborer, which occurred in May last; the second was that of a Dutch sailor, in September last; and the third was that of a female child of two years, recently arrived from Washington, D. C.

A single case of *Gout* finds its place in this year's table.

Homicides.—Deaths from violence number 14—an increase of four over last year's record. Three of these were of unknown infants, and are thus designated in accordance with the verdicts of coroners' juries.

Hooping-cough proved fatal in 78 cases—22 more than occurred in 1854.

The various *Diseases of the Heart* amount to 92, an increase of nine. Many of these cases are to be looked on with suspicion. It is a convenient term to apply to sudden deaths, even if their cause should chance to be in the brain.

Intemperance numbers 31 as its total of victims, 14 less than appeared in last year's record. It will be understood that this term embraces not only those who died from *Delirium tremens*, but those whose death was brought about by general dissolute habits.

Of *Diseases of the Liver*, 24 cases occurred, 14 less than the number of the previous year.

Two deaths from *Tetanus*, or *Lockjaw*, are given;—in 1854 there were three.

The deaths from *Diseases of the Lungs* amount to 226, making 5.53 per cent. of all the deaths. The year previous, there were 260 deaths from the same causes. Ninety-six of the present year's number were of American parentage; 49 were foreign-born, and 81 were children of foreign-born parents.

Against six deaths from *Gangrene* in 1854, the present table records four instances.

Marasmus is another term deserving of suspicion. Like *Dropsy in the Head*, and *Diseases of the Bowels*, with some, it appears to be a generic designation with others, to indicate all those cases of which nothing sat-

isfactory could be learnt. Seventy-nine deaths are thus reported this year, against 106 the preceding year. Of the former number, the children of American parents outnumber all others by five.

The deaths from *Measles* are stated at 69, of which the children of American parents comprise only nine. The preceding year there died from this cause 136,—nearly double the number of the present record.

The number reported as having died of *Old Age*, is 81,—three less than the number set down in the table of 1854. The present number is in the ratio of 1 to 2,009 of the population. It should be stated, however, that several of those thus reported died at an age hardly justifying the adjective prefix “old.” Of the whole number, Americans by birth contributed 59. During the month of April last, 16 thus designated died.

Paralysis proved fatal in 33 cases, and *Pleurisy* in 45,—a slight decrease of the latter from last year's report.

Rheumatism and *Scrofula* contribute, respectively, 14 and 19, to the mortality. Of the former there is a decrease of five, and of the latter, eight.

The deaths from *Small Pox* amount to 182,—an increase of 64 over the number thus reported last year. With the exception of 1850, when there were 192 deaths from this cause, it has been more fatal the past year than it has been for the last five years.

Teething.—The instances thus designated, amount to 196,—a greater number than has been reported in any one year, except in that of 1853, when it was the same. But a small portion of these had exceeded their first year. Only 49 were children of American parents.

ACCIDENTS.	Male.	Female.	ACCIDENTS.	Male.	Female.
Crushed by ferry-boat.....	1	.....	Fell from windows.....	4	2
Killed on railroads.....	14	1	“ down stairs....	2	3
“ by fall of an iron door, 1	.....	.....	“ “ ladder.....	1	.....
“ “ bank of earth.....	3	.....	Deaths by sun-stroke.....	9	.....
“ “ crank of engine....	1	.....	“ “ exhaustion....	3	.....
“ “ drink’g cold water	1	.....	“ “ exposure.....	1	.....
“ “ “ alcohol... 1	1	1	“ “ swallowing pins	1	.....
“ “ fire-arms.....	2	.....	Poisoned by nitric acid... 1	.....	.....
“ “ explosion of boiler, 1	.....	.....	“ “ stramonium....	1	.....
“ “ kick of a horse....	1	.....	“ “ opium.....	1	.....
“ “ fracture of skull.. 2	.....	.....	Accidents not specified..	14	3
“ “ “ of leg & back 1	.....	.....	
Run over by vehicles.....	6	.....	<i>Suicides.</i>		
Thrown from “.....	3	.....		
Hemorrhage (external)....	1	.....	By jumping from window	1	.....
Suffocated.....	2	.....	“ cutting throat.....	3	.....
Scalded.....	6	.....	“ hanging.....	7	.....
Burned.....	4	8	“ shooting.....	2	.....
Drowned.....	30	3	“ laudanum.....	2	.....
Fell into vessels’ holds....	2	.....	“ stabbing.....	1	.....
“ through a scuttle.....	1	.....	“ arsenic.....	1	.....
“ from vessels’ masts....	2	.....	“ drowning.....	2	1
“ “ scaffold.....	1	.....	Homicides.....	7	7
“ “ houses.....	6	.....		
				153	33

The following table exhibits the principal causes of death the past year, with the birthplaces and parentage of the deceased:—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Number.	Native.	Foreign.	Foreign Parentage.	CAUSES OF DEATH.	Number.	Native.	Foreign.	Foreign Parentage.
Accidents	152	...	...	...	Heart, diseases of	95	54	37	4
Apoplexy	37	19	18	...	Homicides	14	...	...	...
Bowels, diseases of	48	27	8	13	Hooping-cough ...	78	16	3	59
Brain, "	135	58	19	58	Intemperance	31	13	18	...
Consumption	735	229	447	59	Liver, diseases of	33	20	10	3
Convulsions	128	23	3	102	Lungs, "	226	96	49	81
Croup	145	47	3	95	Marasmus	79	42	3	34
Cholera infantum	231	63	1	167	Measles	69	9	3	57
Debility	55	16	35	4	Old age	81	59	22	...
Diarrhoea	22	7	8	7	Paralysis	33	23	10	...
Dysentery	141	43	36	62	Pleurisy	45	8	37	...
Dropsy	83	40	39	4	Scrofula	19	14	1	4
" in head ...	161	54	4	103	Small Pox	186	56	39	91
Diseases infantile.	278	47	...	231	Suicides	21	...	...	...
" puerperal ..	34	10	23	1	Teething	196	45	4	147
" unknown ..	54	...	...	...	Thrush	27	18	1	8
Erysipelas	36	16	12	8	Worms	16	...	...	16
Fever, typhoid ...	78	44	28	6					
" scarlet	74	19	5	50					
						3876	1235	926	1474

The above table comprises 3,876, or 95 per cent. of the whole number of deaths. Compared with those of native origin, foreigners and their children are in proportion of nearly 2 to 1.

VII. *General Abstract of the BILL OF MORTALITY of the Year 1855, and showing the Deaths each month, with the Sex and Age of the Deceased.*

Months.	Stillborn.		Un. 1 yr.		1 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		90 to 100.		Totals.				
	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
January,	14	13	27	34	38	25	35	7	5	1	2	5	4	32	19	21	25	12	11	16	7	10	7	9	3	1	3	—	—	1	173	162	
February,	5	9	14	46	34	33	32	5	5	1	2	5	6	15	15	18	13	9	9	8	10	7	9	6	9	—	2	7	—	1	153	147	
March,	12	9	21	35	41	34	36	5	5	1	2	6	8	24	25	16	24	18	8	17	7	6	13	8	1	4	1	7	—	1	173	185	
April,	21	5	26	38	26	32	35	7	7	1	1	7	11	20	16	19	23	6	6	11	8	6	9	4	13	1	9	—	—	—	150	167	
May,	8	11	19	23	33	28	26	6	9	3	2	5	6	22	25	18	15	19	5	12	5	7	7	6	3	1	3	—	—	—	156	135	
June,	17	10	27	33	23	30	25	6	9	3	2	3	5	22	11	23	12	19	10	11	6	3	4	3	4	1	4	—	—	—	156	110	
July,	11	5	16	38	32	35	45	5	2	3	2	—	5	26	10	18	9	13	10	11	6	6	11	4	2	3	3	4	—	—	—	190	179
August,	7	6	13	89	82	57	61	9	7	4	3	6	8	17	13	20	18	15	14	7	6	7	5	7	11	3	3	4	—	1	234	246	
September,	11	5	16	77	51	69	61	11	7	3	6	6	8	16	19	22	20	14	7	6	9	5	5	5	5	2	3	3	1	1	237	195	
October,	7	10	17	42	51	40	45	9	5	—	3	5	7	16	16	7	17	18	13	8	3	4	4	5	1	2	2	—	—	—	152	168	
November,	14	7	21	29	18	38	40	13	5	3	2	3	7	14	24	18	17	16	8	11	4	—	7	2	7	4	—	—	—	—	148	136	
December,	6	5	11	38	29	43	44	5	6	2	7	4	8	17	26	15	15	11	10	9	8	7	2	7	6	2	4	—	1	1	100	106	
	133	95	228	562	483	462	502	85	67	22	34	55	80	241	228	215	208	102	111	127	82	68	83	61	69	19	43	5	6	2084	1996		

The foregoing table contains 228 instances of still-born children, 15 less than were noticed in last year's record. Not a few cases of this kind, no doubt, are never reported. Many seem to suppose that facts of this character are of no value, and therefore never submit them for public record. In 1855, the number of these cases was in the ratio of 1 to 71.38 of the population, and are given below as they occurred each month :—

	M.	F.		M.	F.
In January were reported....	14	13	In August were reported....	7	6
" February " "	5	9	" September " "	11	5
" March " "	12	9	" October " "	7	10
" April " "	21	5	" November " "	14	7
" May " "	8	11	" December " "	6	5
" June " "	17	10			
" July " "	11	5		133	95

By an examination of Table VII., we find that the ratio of deaths to the total mortality, in the several specified periods of life, is as follows. The fourth and fifth columns contain the number of deaths in the corresponding periods of last year, together with the percentage of each class of the same.

Whole number of deaths in 1855, 4,080. There died,—

Under 1 year, 1045, being 25.61 per cent.				982 being 22.11 per cent.			
1 to 5 years,	964,	"	23.62	"	965	"	21.72
5 to 10	"	152,	"	3.72	"	183	"
10 to 15	"	56,	"	1.37	"	82	"
15 to 20	"	135,	"	3.30	"	152	"
20 to 30	"	469,	"	11.49	"	583	"
30 to 40	"	423,	"	10.36	"	560	"
40 to 50	"	273,	"	6.69	"	366	"
50 to 60	"	209,	"	5.12	"	205	"
60 to 70	"	151,	"	3.70	"	190	"
70 to 80	"	130,	"	3.18	"	116	"
80 to 90	"	62,	"	1.51	"	50	"
90 to 100	"	11,	"	.26	"	7	"
	4080		99.93		4441		99.93

It will be observed, that 49.24 per cent. of all the deaths recorded this year are of children under five years of age. The mortality in the corresponding period last year, was less than 44 per cent. Of deaths between the ages of five and ten, the difference is slightly in favor of the present year. From 15 to 20, there is no essential variance between the two records. During the three decades between 20 and 50, the table of this year records 28.55 per cent. of all the deaths; while during the same period of last year, 33.98 per cent. was the result. In each of the succeeding decades (except that between 60 and 70,) there has been an increase in the mortality of 1855 over that of the previous year.

Of those who died under five years of age, 91 expired on the day of their birth; 85 before they were one week old; 123 did not survive one month; 358 died before they were six months old; 388 when they were between six months and one year; 558 died ere they had reached their second year; 223 fell short of their third; and 183 only died between their third and fifth years. By this analysis, it will be seen that the mortality was greatest among children between their first and second years; the next most fatal period, was when they were between six months and one year old.

VIII. *Showing the NATIVITY of those who died in Boston in 1855, together with that of their Parents, as nearly as can be ascertained.*

Places of Birth.	Males.	Females.	Birthplaces of Parents.	
Boston.....	1135	1112	United States.....	1418
Massachusetts (except Boston).....	162	200	Ireland.....	2290
Remainder of New England.....	133	129	England.....	82
Other American States.....	38	34	Scotland.....	29
Ireland.....	430	416	Germany.....	139
England.....	47	22	British Provinces.....	85
Scotland.....	10	8	Other Foreign Places.....	26
Germany.....	45	22	Unknown.....	11
British Provinces.....	51	43		
Other Foreign Places.....	16	5		
Unknown.....	16	4		
At Sea.....	1	1		
Total.....	2084	1996	Total.....	4080

IX. *Showing the AGGREGATE AND AVERAGE AGES of 706 men who died in 1855, whose professions and occupations were ascertained.*

No.	Profession or Occupation.	Ages ranging from	Aggregate Ages.	Average Ages.
305	Laborers	16 to 88	12,292	40.30
69	Mariners	16 " 79	2,663	38.59
45	Clerks	16 " 74	1,484	32.98
35	Tailors	20 " 90	1,368	39.08
32	Merchants	26 " 91	1,882	58.81
32	Traders	24 " 79	1,590	49.68
33	Carpenters	18 " 87	1,510	45.76
22	Painters	19 " 76	888	40.36
20	Shoemakers	21 " 55	687	34.35
15	Teamsters	22 " 73	516	34.40
12	Gentlemen	28 " 83	718	59.83
11	Printers	20 " 68	434	39.45
10	Masons	25 " 71	402	40.20
9	Machinists	23 " 46	304	33.77
8	Bakers	26 " 60	309	38.62
8	Farmers	35 " 71	457	57.12
7	Blacksmiths	20 " 58	245	35.00
6	Ship Carpenters	30 " 70	307	51.16
5	Physicians	25 " 72	249	49.80
5	Clergymen	36 " 73	269	53.80
4	Coopers	26 " 55	162	40.50
4	Curriers	19 " 40	114	23.50
4	Engineers	27 " 54	183	45.75
5	Lawyers	27 " 91	301	60.20
706			29,334	41.55

Laborers.—The foregoing table shows, that 305 persons thus designated died during the year. With the exception of about a dozen, it may be, all of these were born in Ireland. The previous year, there died 408 of this class, making 9.18 per cent. of all the deaths. There is a decrease of more than a hundred in the present record, which makes but 7.47 per cent. of the deaths, besides adding a year to the average duration of life.

Mariners.—A larger number of this class have died the past year, but their average age is higher.

Clerks, who seem to be less tenacious of life than most others, claim an average of almost 33 years, although an increased number have died.

Traders, Tailors, Merchants, and Carpenters, have added to their average ages, but a larger number have died.

The average age of *Painters* has declined from 44.11 to 40.36, while the number of deaths has increased from 17 to 22.

Shoemakers.—Four have been added to the list of deaths of this class, while their average age has diminished from 41.87 to 34.35.

Teamsters and Gentlemen have fallen slightly in their average ages,—the latter less than the former,—while an increased number of the latter, and fewer of the former, have died than during the previous year.

Printers have made an encouraging advance. The number deceased is less by four, while their average age has risen from 33.20 to 39.45.

Masons, Machinists, Farmers, Blacksmiths, Ship Carpenters, Physicians, and Coopers, present a decreased

average age ; while *Bakers*, whose age was the smallest in last report, exhibit an advance from 29.50 to 38.62.

Lawyers.—The average age of this class,—represented by four individuals,—appears as 60.20.

The average age of *Clergymen* has diminished from 60.66 to 53.80, while two more have died than during 1854.

The number thus tabulated in last report, was 796, with the average age of 39.88 years. The present statement gives to 706 individuals an average age of 41.55.

X. *Showing the BIRTHS, INTENTIONS OF MARRIAGE ENTERED, MARRIAGES RECORDED, and DEATHS for each month of the year 1855.*

Months.	Births.	Intentions of Marriage.	Marriages Recorded.	Deaths.
January,.....	406	319	294	335
February,.....	440	224	270	300
March,.....	513	154	124	360
April,.....	437	271	237	317
May,.....	445	271	274	291
June,.....	454	251	216	266
July,.....	524	236	238	369
August,.....	516	256	224	480
September,.....	499	246	224	432
October,.....	512	301	287	320
November,.....	520	305	299	284
December,.....	550	227	168	326
	5,816	3,061	2,855	4,080

INTERMENTS.

The following are the places of Interment of all who died the past year.

<i>City Proper.</i>		<i>Out of Town.</i>	
Central Ground, (Common),.....	117	Cambridge,.....	1,029
Charter Street Cemetery,†.....	4	Charlestown,.....	130
Copp's Hill, (old & new grounds),†	30	Deer Island,.....	37
Christ Church Cemetery,*.....	1	Dorchester,.....	578
Granary Cemetery,*.....	3	Forest Hills Cemetery,.....	171
Park Street Church Cemetery,*... 1		Mount Auburn Cemetery,.....	208
South Burial Ground, (on the neck)	167	Mount Hope Cemetery,.....	54
Trinity Church Cemetery,*.....	1	Rainsford Island,.....	69
<i>South Boston.</i>		Roxbury,.....	20
Hawes Ground,.....	51	Watertown,.....	287
House of Correction,.....	8	Woodlawn Cemetery,.....	97
Roman Catholic Burial Ground,†	73	Other places in the State,.....	321
St. Matthew's Cemetery,†.....	1	Places out of the State,.....	129
Union Ground Cemetery,	31	Total Interments out of Boston, 3,130	
<i>East Boston.</i>			
City Ground,.....	450		
Jews' Ground,.....	12		
Total Interments in the city,.....	950		

The places marked thus * were closed by the Board of Aldermen in 1853, and those thus designated † were closed in the early part of 1855. In October last, these restrictions were removed, thus allowing interments in any cemetery within the city. This brief prohibition of burials here, has induced many to purchase lots in suburban cemeteries; so that but few intramural interments have taken place since the removal of the restriction from the city grounds. It is doubtful whether many will avail themselves of the privilege of interring their dead in the city, as popular inclination appears to favor interments in the various cemeteries in the neighborhood. Beyond a few tombs, which have descended

to their present owners through successive generations, and are valued because they are the resting-places of the remains of their ancestors, and in which they themselves desire to be laid, tombs in the city will not, probably, to any great extent, be hereafter used.

The interments in the City proper, and at East and South Boston, during the year, amounted to only 950—less than one-fourth of the number that died. During the same time, there were removed from tombs in the City, for re-interment elsewhere, 407 bodies. There were brought here, for interment, in the same time, by persons owning tombs, the bodies of 71 persons who had died in other places. The previous year, there were removed only 212 bodies, while there were brought into the city 110.

FUNERAL CARS.

Bodies of persons who die and are interred in the City, are, if ten years of age, conveyed to the places of interment in hearses owned by the City. Those who are conveyed elsewhere, are generally borne in hearses owned by undertakers. The friends of deceased persons rarely hesitate in their choice between those owned by the latter and those belonging to the City, and frequently apply for permission to use the hearses of the undertakers in the City. These private cars are more attractive in appearance, and certainly more convenient. At the present time, the fees received from the use of the city hearses, are not sufficient to pay the expenses of their storage and keeping, to say nothing of the cost

of their annual repairs. Under these circumstances, the suggestion is respectfully submitted to the City Council, whether it would not be advisable to dispose of the hearses owned by the City, (reserving one or two for special purposes,) and allow those belonging to undertakers to occupy their place. The latter could be placed under such restrictions as the City Council might deem proper, so as to ensure decorum and propriety on funeral occasions.

Respectfully submitted.

N. A. APOLLONIO.

CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, }
January 31, 1856. }

REPORT
BY THE
CITY REGISTRAR,
OF THE
Births, Marriages, and Deaths,
IN THE
CITY OF BOSTON,
FOR THE YEAR
1856.



BOSTON:
GEO. C. RAND & AVERY, CITY PRINTERS,
No. 3, CORNHILL.
1857.

R E P O R T

BY THE

CITY REGISTRAR,

OF THE

Births, Marriages, and Deaths,

IN THE

CITY OF BOSTON,

FOR THE YEAR

1856.



J

BOSTON:

GEO. C. RAND & AVERY, CITY PRINTERS,

No. 3, CORNHILL.

1857.

CITY OF BOSTON.

In Board of Aldermen, Feb. 2, 1857.

Laid on the table, and five hundred copies ordered to be printed.

Attest,

SAMUEL F. McCLEARY,

City Clerk.

R E P O R T .

TO THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL :

The undersigned respectfully submits to the City Council his Annual Report, concerning the Births, Marriages, and Deaths in the City of Boston during the year 1856.

In presenting the practical details of his office during the past year, the undersigned ventures to indulge in some observations, which he trusts will not be considered out of place in a document of this character.

But few people have a desire to embark in statistical research ; and fewer still feel any great interest in vital or mortuary statistics. Until late years, the discussion of vital statistics, and the subjects naturally associated with them, was almost wholly confined to physicians, and a few others, men of scientific attainments, who were deemed to have a peculiar aptitude for the dry details of figures and philosophical speculations. The great mass of mankind manifested but little desire to ascertain *how* they came into the world, still less to learn the probable chances of their continuance in it for a given time, and no appreciable thought concerning the mode of their egress therefrom. They knew they *were* here, and that they must depart ; beyond a knowledge of these two simple facts, they did not appear to consider it of any use to advance.

Although decided progress has latterly been made in the right direction, the subject still occupies a position far below that which its importance deserves; and considerable effort will yet be demanded from those who appreciate its value, before it will take its proper position.

There are various interests of a community which would be materially subserved by a familiar acquaintance with vital statistics, and matters naturally allied to them. Some of these are obvious, and need but little by way of elucidation. In determining, as nearly as may be, the duration of human life, the augmentation and decrease of population, together with the causes of the same, and the character of the materials which make up population, sanative principles naturally assume their legitimate place, and necessarily become a matter for discussion. Whenever or wherever such discussions occur, these subjects at once rise to their just level of importance, and are followed immediately by those acts which are the characteristics of cultivated life. It requires but little effort to see how these in turn engender a multitude of wants, as well as increase the capacity to enjoy them.

It is well known that epidemics, as well as ordinary diseases, find the larger portion of their victims in cities. The cause of this is mainly attributable to density of population, and to the accumulation of filth, generally found in connection with such condition. While there is a general belief that populations so circumstanced are peculiarly exposed to the ravages of epidemics, there does not appear to be any just appreciation of the laws which govern health, the duration of life, &c., and, con-

sequently, little practical benefit is experienced. This defect will be remedied in proportion as the subject shall be understood; and it will be understood just as soon as it shall cease to be treated as an abstruse or mere theoretical question, and be made to appear conducive to the material, moral, and intellectual welfare of the people.

The mode by which a knowledge of vital statistics is to be made effective, is scarcely less important than the subject itself. It is but a few years since a well-defined system of Registration was adopted and put into vigorous operation. The method previously in vogue was exceedingly crude, and very imperfectly carried out. More than one instance has come to the knowledge of the undersigned, since his assumption of the duties of his office, where severe losses have resulted to parties from inability to substantiate their just claims by documentary evidence of birth and marriage. An instance is remembered, where the incorrect registration of a name utterly vitiated an undoubted title to an estate. This latter fact, it is true, affects only the competency of those who had in charge the duty of registration; but it is worthy of mention, inasmuch as the failure to record correctly was as disastrous as would have been a failure to record at all.

The system of Registration now in operation in Massachusetts has been digested with great care, and should be carried out with proper spirit and faithfulness. To ensure this result, popular sympathy and co-operation must be obtained; and this can only be done by convincing people that they have a personal interest in the subject, and that the whole community are concerned alike.

During the past year, a volume containing the records of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, dating as far back as 1632, was, in consequence of its dilapidated condition, ordered by the City Council to be transcribed on parchment. This has been done; and a volume, valued not only for its age, but for the information which it communicates respecting men connected with the early history of Massachusetts, is now secured against further injury.

Full returns of the Births, Marriages, and Deaths recorded in the City of Boston during the year 1856, have been returned to the Secretary of State, as required by law. The returns have been made up with great care, and, it is believed, with as much accuracy as it was possible to make them.

BIRTHS.

The Births in the City of Boston during the past year, amount to 5,922,—3,053 males, 2,869 females—an increase of 106 over the number recorded the previous year.

I. BIRTHS *Registered in Boston in the Year 1856.*

DIVISIONS.*	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total.
Males,	863	502	839	445	377	27	3053
Females,	831	467	827	393	324	27	2869
Total,	1694	969	1666	838	701	54	5922
Twins,	16	11	12	7	5	1	52
Triplets, .....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	2

Birthplaces of Parents.	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Total Fathers	Total Mothers
Boston,	100	131	124	145	94	106	66	70	41	40	3	2	428	494
Massachusetts, (out of Boston,) }	96	89	146	128	83	80	61	63	85	68	3	....	474	428
Maine,	65	95	65	83	47	60	42	59	60	78	1	3	280	378
New Hampshire,	88	50	59	49	50	34	23	16	14	26	....	....	234	175
Vermont,	22	11	23	12	15	7	7	4	8	4	....	....	80	38
Connecticut,	6	4	6	8	4	5	2	1	3	2	....	....	21	20
Rhode Island,	2	5	8	8	3	1	2	3	1	3	....	....	16	20
Other American States, ..	41	17	43	52	27	15	13	13	12	12	1	....	137	109
England,	71	56	32	20	47	29	29	25	48	33	6	2	233	170
Scotland,	31	16	12	10	21	11	24	14	21	11	2	4	111	66
Ireland,	922	1032	217	224	1080	1130	434	485	263	292	22	35	2988	3198
France,	14	6	5	4	5	4	2	2	9	1	1	....	36	17
Spain and Portugal,	11	4	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	12	4
Germany and North of Europe, }	60	35	121	116	72	50	16	14	32	22	1	1	302	238
British Amer. Provinces, .	70	64	27	52	53	72	31	41	77	77	5	3	263	309
Other Foreign Countries, .	33	11	25	14	12	9	3	2	6	3	....	....	84	39
At Sea, .....	.....	1	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	2
Unknown,	41	51	37	30	39	39	25	19	16	19	8	3	166	161
Total,	1678	1678	956	956	1652	1652	831	831	696	696	53	53	5866	5866

* 1. North of State, Court, and Cambridge Streets.

2. West of Washington, South of Court and Cambridge Streets.

3. East of Washington, South of State Street.

4. South Boston, except City Institutions.

5. East Boston and Islands.

6. City Institutions at South Boston and Deer Island.

The following exhibits the number of births in each ward, with their ratio to the population of the same:—

Wards.	Population.	Births.	Ratio.
1.....	19,264.....	869 as 1 to	22.16
2.....	15,963.....	755 “ 1 “	21.14
3.....	13,175.....	477 “ 1 “	27.62
4.....	7,912.....	124 “ 1 “	63.80
5.....	10,428.....	301 “ 1 “	34.64
6.....	11,597.....	295 “ 1 “	39.31
7.....	18,430.....	750 “ 1 “	24.57
8.....	12,690.....	317 “ 1 “	40.03
9.....	9,541.....	286 “ 1 “	33.36
10.....	12,553.....	434 “ 1 “	28.92
11.....	13,264.....	476 “ 1 “	27.86
12.....	17,931.....	838 “ 1 “	21.39
	<hr/> 162,748	<hr/> 5,922	

The above shows that the births in 1856 were as 1 to 27.48 of the population. By reference to last year's report, it will be seen that there was an increase of deaths in the first ward of 47,—the increase of births in that ward was 105. In ward 2, the increase in deaths was 30,—of births, 40. In ward 3, the increase of deaths, 6,—of births, 8. Ward 4, decrease of 16 deaths,—increase of births, 1. Ward 5, increase of deaths, 47,—decrease of births, 39. Ward 6, increase of deaths, 55,—of births 29. Ward 7, decrease of deaths, 41,—births precisely the same as previous year. Ward 8, decrease of deaths, 28,—of births, 117. Ward 9, increase of deaths, 34,—of births, 22. Ward 10, increase of deaths, 72,—of births 11. Ward 11, increase of deaths, 28,—of births, 35. Ward 12, decrease of deaths, 61,—increase of births, 147. Ward 1 exhibits the greatest number of births, but ward 2 (East Boston) shows the highest ratio of births to the population, being one birth to every 21.14 of the inhabitants. Ward 12 comes next, (taking the place ward 7 occupied last year,

but which now stands the third in the list) with one birth to 21.39 of its population. Ward 8 presents a marked difference from the previous year's result, when there was one birth to 29.24 of its population. This year it is 1 to 40.03. Ward 4 shows 1 to 63.80,—a slight improvement over the year before, when it was one in 64.32.

The following is a comparative statement of the Deaths and Births in each ward, with the ratio of each to the whole number of Deaths and Births respectively:—

WARDS.	Per Cent. of Deaths.	Per Cent. of Births.	WARDS.	Per Cent. of Deaths.	Per Cent. of Births.
1	14.90	14.67	7	11.09	12.66
2	11.96	12.74	8	7.71	5.35
3	7.47	8.05	9	4.98	4.82
4	2.79	2.09	10	7.28	7.32
5	8.06	5.08	11	7.71	8.03
6	5.05	4.98	12	10.93	14.15

There were 50 births of colored children, an increase of 21 over the number reported the previous year, being in the ratio of 1 to 44.40 of the colored population. The ratio of the Births, Marriages, and Deaths, respectively, of this class to the population of the same, may be seen by the following:—

Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
As 1 to 44.40	1 to 38.27	1 to 31.26

There were fifty-two twin births, (13 being in ward 1, 7 in ward 2, and 8 in ward 12,) and two cases of triplets, one in ward 9, and the other in ward 11. In 32 instances, the twins were of Irish parents; in seven, of

American; in two, of German; in the remaining nine instances, the parents were of various foreign countries. One pair of twins was colored. One set of the triplets (3 males) belong to American parents; the other (3 females) to Irish parents.

II. *Showing the NATIVITY of the PARENTS of the CHILDREN born in Boston in 1856.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Both Parents born in the United States,	728	699	1427
Do do England,	57	29	86
Do do Ireland,	1461	1420	2881
Do do Scotland,	17	9	26
Do do Germany,	114	85	199
Do do other Foreign Countries (unmixed,*)	24	39	63
Do do do do do (mixed,†) ..	142	157	299
Do do British American Provinces,	65	53	118
Father born in United States; Mother in Br. Am. Provinces,	37	56	93
Do do do do Ireland,	60	32	92
Do do do do other Foreign Countries,	40	33	73
Do do do do Unknown, .....	....	1	1
Do do Br. Am. Prov.; Mother in United States, ...	31	31	62
Do do do do Foreign Countries,	46	32	78
Do do Ireland; do United States,	46	27	73
Do do other Foreign Countries; do do	36	44	80
Do do do do do Br. Am. Prov.	49	42	91
Do do do do do Unknown, ...	10	5	15
Do do Unknown; do United States,	5	3	8
Do do do do For. Countries,	5	12	17
Both Parents do	80	60	140
	3053	2869	5922

* This term denotes that both Parents, in each case, were born in the *same* country.

† This, that the Parents, in each instance, were born in *different* countries.

It will be seen by the above table, that there were 1427 births where both parents were born in the United

States. These make but 24.09 per cent. of all the births, a slight decrease from the previous year's record. The number of instances where only the fathers were native born, was 259, or 4.37 per cent. The number of cases where only the mother was born here, was 223, or 3.76 per cent. The number of instances where both parents were Irish, was 2881, or 48.64 per cent., a decrease of nearly 2 per cent. from the number of the previous year.

MARRIAGES.

There were but 2,914 Intentions of Marriage entered during the year 1856,—147 less than were recorded in 1855. The marriages received and entered to the present date, number 2,536, a decrease of 319 from the number recorded at the same time last year. The year just closed having been leap year, it does not appear that ladies have very extensively availed themselves of the privilege generally accorded to them.

Of the males, 1,033, or 40.73 per cent. of the whole number, were born in the United States, almost precisely the same proportion that existed the previous year; 233 of this number only were born in Boston, and 310 in other portions of Massachusetts. Maine furnishes a greater number of Benedicts than any other New England State, being 198. New Hampshire next, 104, leaving their three remaining sisters represented by a totality of 80. States further south and west are represented by 108 happy swains.

The remaining 1,503 males are represented by 960 natives of the Emerald Isle, making 37.85 per cent. of

the entire number, a slight reduction from the previous year's result, and 64.51 per cent. of the foreigners. Germany and North of Europe contribute 10.14 per cent., British American Provinces 9.87 per cent., while "Merrie England" herself 7.32 per cent., leaving Portuguese, Italians, Frenchmen, &c., to make up the remainder.

Of the females married, 989 or 38.99 per cent. were born in the United States; of these, Boston contributes 341, the rest of the State 348, Maine 192, (very nearly the same number she gives of the males,) the remaining four New England States 145, and the States south and west, 63. As with the males, Maine furnishes more females for wedlock than either of the other States.

The remaining 1,547 comprise 1,080 Irish females, or 72.14 per cent. of all the foreign females, 185 born in the British American Provinces, 126 in Germany and Northern Europe, 79 in England, 21 in Scotland, 6 in other foreign places, while the birthplaces of 50 were unknown.

The following table shows the birthplaces of each couple married. The right hand outside column of totals designates the males, while the females are denoted in the bottom line of totals.

III. Showing the Birthplaces of each Couple Married.

BIRTHPLACES OF FEMALES.																
BIRTHPLACES OF MALES.																
Boston	Mass.	Maine	New Hampshire	Vermont	Rhode Island	Connecticut	Other States	Ireland	England	Scotland	British Provinces	Germany and North of Europe	Other Places	Unkn wn	TOTALS	
Boston,	99	40	26	8	5	1	1	10	19	9	...	13	...	2	233	283
Massachusetts,	83	102	42	29	6	5	3	6	17	4	...	12	1	...	310	310
Maine,	35	30	65	10	4	1	2	9	12	9	1	19	1	...	198	198
New Hampshire,	21	25	19	20	3	1	...	4	3	2	...	5	1	...	104	104
Vermont,	13	8	7	6	7	1	...	1	2	1	...	4	...	1	51	51
Rhode Island, .....	...	1	2	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	10	10
Connecticut,	6	2	2	...	1	1	2	3	...	1	...	1	...	...	19	19
Other States,	24	11	9	6	1	1	...	16	23	4	1	11	...	1	108	108
Ireland,	26	8	2	2	1	...	...	3	870	13	2	32	...	1	980	980
England,	5	5	8	2	2	...	1	1	44	26	2	12	...	1	109	109
Scotland,	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	12	4	8	5	...	...	35	35
British Provinces,	12	10	8	1	2	...	1	5	40	1	4	61	2	...	147	147
Germany and North of Europe,	8	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	2	2	2	113	...	3	151
Other Places,	7	3	1	...	...	...	2	4	19	3	...	7	8	...	32	86
Unknown, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	15
Totals,	341	248	192	87	32	14	12	63	1080	79	21	185	126	6	50	2536

The above table will be readily understood from the following explanation: The outside right hand column shows that 233 grooms were Boston-born. Of these, 99 married Boston-born females, 40 married the same number of females from other parts of the State, 26 married females from Maine, and so on.

Of the 925 New England males, 750 married New England females, 53 married Irish females, and 55 married females born in the British Provinces. Of the 960 Irish males, 870 married their own countrywomen; 32, females from the Provinces; and 26 married females born in Boston.

A glance at the table will show that the materials which make up a Boston population are of quite a diversified character, the Irish element largely predominating.

IV. *Showing the AGES of each Couple at the time of Marriage.*

AGES OF MALES.	AGES OF FEMALES.										
	Under 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	Unknown	TOTALS
Under 21 Years, ..	29	27	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	60
21 to 25 Years,	229	550	95	15	3	....	....	....	....	....	892
25 to 30 do	92	426	287	43	6	....	....	....	....	2	856
30 to 35 do	27	115	128	59	16	1	....	....	....	1	347
35 to 40 do	6	25	64	47	29	3	3	....	....	....	177
40 to 45 do	1	7	22	21	13	10	3	....	....	....	77
45 to 50 do ....	....	2	5	11	9	12	6	2	....	1	48
50 to 60 do	3	....	4	10	9	10	8	6	....	1	51
60 to 70 do ....	....	....	....	2	....	3	....	4	2	....	11
Over 70 do ....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	1	1	....	3
Unknown,.....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	13	14
Totals,	387	1152	609	209	85	40	20	13	3	13	2536

The explanation of the above table is similar to that of

the one preceding it. There were married 60 males under 21 years of age,—one less than were married the previous year, making 2.36 per cent. of the number married. Four of these married females between 25 and 30 years of age. 892, or 35.17 per cent. of the males, married between the ages of 21 and 25, and 856, or 33.75 per cent., married between 25 and 30 years. Of the 892 males between the ages of 21 and 25, 229 married females under 20 years of age; 550 took partners who were about the same age; 95 chose wives whose ages were above 25 years; 15 selected partners of females over 30 years; while three took wives who were above 35 years. 27 males over 30 years, 6 over 35, one over 40, and 3 fastidious gentlemen of over 50 years, married females under 20. Fifty-one gentlemen between 50 and 60 were married, 3 to maidens under 20, 4 to females between 25 and 30, 10 between 30 and 35, 9 between 35 and 40, 10 between 40 and 45, 8 between 45 and 50, and 6 between 50 and 60. There were 11 males married who had passed their 60th year, while 3 had left behind their 70th year. There were 76 females married who had passed their 40th year, 13 who had seen their 50th, while but three females over 60 years became brides.

The favorite matrimonial period for both sexes is between 21 and 25; the next is between 25 and 30.

Among the males married were 60 minors; 43 were 20 years of age; 10 were 19; 5 were 18; one was 17, and one was 16; the latter married a female 19 years of age.

Among the females married, were 206 under 19 years of age; 143 were 18 years of age; 45 of 17; 15 of 16; 2 of 15; and 1 of 14.

V. *Showing the CONDITION (whether Widowed or Single) and PLACES of RESIDENCE of the parties Married.*

Males.	Females — No. times Married.					Residences at Time of Marriage.		
	1st	2d	3d	Unknown	Totals		Males	Females
1st Marriage,	1984	159	6	....	2149	In Boston,	1923	2103
2d do	227	110	9	....	346	Other places in State,	481	363
3d do	18	13	1	....	32	Out of State,	132	70
4th do	1	....	....	....	1			
Unknown, .....	....	....	....	8	8			
Totals,	2230	282	16	8	2536		2536	2536

The first marriages of males, it will be seen, amount to 2,149, or nearly 84.74 per cent. of all the marriages; 346 were second marriages, 32 were third, while only a single fourth marriage took place, which was of a gentleman of the ripe age of 71 with a maiden of 31.

The first marriages of females number 2,230, or 87.93 per cent. of all the marriages. Of these, 1984 were united to males who had never been married; 227 married widowers; 18 married men who had been widowed twice, while one ventured to take a gentleman whose essays in the matrimonial line had been made three times before.

The condition of eight non-resident couples is unknown. The residence of 1,923 males at the time of marriage was in Boston; 481 resided in other towns in the State, and 132 belonged out of the State.

Of the females, 2,103 resided in Boston; 363 in other parts of the State; and 70 came from other States.

Of the whole number of marriages, 24 were of cou-

ples, one or both of whom resided here, but who were married in other States. The law requires such parties to register their marriages on their return to the city.

There were 397 instances in which the brides were *older* than the grooms.

There were 46 colored couples married; and 12 colored males married white women. There was one instance where the groom was white and the bride colored.

MORTALITY OF THE YEAR.

The annexed tables, illustrative of the mortality of the year 1856, show that there were 4,253 deaths in the city of Boston during that period, an increase of 173 over the number recorded in 1855. Even this augmentation leaves the general result 188 below the record of 1854. With the exception of *Scarlatina*, which has proved exceedingly virulent during the latter part of the year, the city has suffered from no epidemic; while some other diseases, which have usually prevailed to a greater or less extent, have been less fatal than they were in previous years. Among these the most marked is *Small Pox*, from which not a death has been reported since August.

In the City Registrar's last Report, the regret was expressed that the present method of reporting deaths was so defective. The experience of the past year has deepened the conviction received during the previous one, that, not only was the value of the registration system impaired by the imperfect manner in which it was carried out, but even crimes were perpetrated and

effectually concealed through these very defects. So long as licenses for interments are issued on the returns now required by law, without the attestation of competent authority as to their correctness, flagrant crimes may be committed with little hazard of exposure. As proof of this observation, attention is called to the following incident.

An undertaker was employed a few months since to superintend the funeral of a female, who was said to have died of typhoid fever. On applying for the requisite license to inter the body, the undertaker expressed his doubt, from the character of the house where the death occurred, concerning the cause of death. As the return was properly made, and nothing beyond a mere surmise was thrown out, the usual license was given, and the body interred accordingly. Two or three days subsequently, two ladies called at this office to inquire concerning the female in question. They stated that the deceased had, a short time previously, resided in their family, but had afterwards left it without informing them of her new abode. They stated that soon after her departure, a young man, who was understood to have been paying his addresses to her, called at their residence and informed them that she had died out of the city, but was brought back and buried at East Boston. This misrepresentation, in connection with the character of the house where the death took place, created a suspicion that something was wrong. The body, accordingly, was disinterred, and an examination made, when it was fully proved that abortion had been practised, which, in all probability, had caused death. Arrests were made; among the number the

"Doctor," who was alleged to have produced the abortion, and held to bail for trial. Although little doubt existed that the death in question resulted from the assigned cause, it was found impossible to fasten the guilt upon the suspected parties, and they altogether escaped. Two other cases of a similar character occurred previously, one of which was properly investigated, but nothing definite was brought home to the suspected parties.

These are but three instances ; but there might not have been more obstacles to the occurrence of a dozen, nor could the present mode of reporting deaths furnish means to detect them. A murder may be committed : a report of the death is made, ascribed to any disease that the person reporting the case may choose, together with a few simple items of information, and permission asked to remove the body from the city for interment. No suspicion being entertained, the required permission is given. On arriving at the place of burial, the same particulars are furnished there that were given in the first instance, and the body is interred. Unless suspicion is excited by other circumstances, no detection will probably result. Who can say that such instances do not actually occur every year ?

The Registration Act of Rhode Island, enacted in 1855, makes it the duty of physicians to report deaths ; and where death occurs without the attendance of a physician, that duty is imposed on coroners. The last report of the City Registrar of Providence, shows that this feature in the Registration system of Rhode Island renders that an improvement upon our own. Although entire accuracy is not to be expected, some approxima-

tion to that result, however, may be reasonably looked for. In most cases of death where physicians were in attendance, the cause of death could be definitely stated; the remainder could be so described as to prove of almost equal practical benefit. In regard to the large number who die without being visited by a physician, it might be made the duty of the City Physician to see such *after* death, and report the result of his examination. Whatever uncertainty there might be in this course, it would not be a tithe of that which exists under the present system.

Another advantage of a public character would result under the change above indicated. The City Physician would become daily cognizant of the exact sanitary condition of all parts of the city, and of the habits and mode of living of those among whom the deaths indicated occurred. This personal inspection would enable him to make such suggestions to the Board of Health as would prove conducive to the public health, as well as serve to prevent or expose misdeeds such as have been alluded to. With these suggestions, the subject is respectfully urged upon the attention of the City Council.

The following table, showing the number of deaths on each day of the year, will be interesting as one of reference. The correspondence between the number of deaths in each of the first six and of the ninth months of the past year, with the number that died in the same months in 1855, is singular, there being only a difference of 35 deaths for the whole period. It will also be observed, that the mortality in August last did not so greatly preponderate over some of the other months, as

is usually the case,—the number of deaths in that month being not much larger than those in September and December. The increased mortality of the year 1856 over that of 1855, occurred principally in November and December. In the former month, the present table shows an increase of 70 deaths, and in the latter of 101, over the number in the corresponding months of the previous year. This great difference is undoubtedly to be attributed to the prevalence of *Scarlatina*, of which 65 died in November, and 115 in December.

VI. *Showing the DEATHS in BOSTON, on each day of the Year 1856, as reported by Funeral Undertakers, and others.*

DAY.	JANUARY.	FEBRUARY.	MARCH.	APRIL.	MAY.	JUNE.	JULY.	AUGUST.	SEPTEMBER.	OCTOBER.	NOVEMBER.	DECEMBER.
1	12	4	13	6	7	9	7	6	10	10	11	15
2	13	6	14	11	8	8	10	17	12	11	10	10
3	9	13	10	15	10	10	6	10	17	13	8	11
4	12	12	10	13	16	14	9	11	16	19	6	13
5	14	11	14	8	10	4	7	10	21	11	8	14
6	19	16	12	12	8	7	9	11	20	11	8	12
7	6	11	5	11	14	5	9	16	16	16	18	10
8	11	9	12	6	7	15	8	10	11	15	12	12
9	7	16	12	12	8	11	12	15	11	15	12	12
10	8	7	12	7	19	6	10	16	20	9	8	16
11	13	17	21	8	8	8	7	18	14	16	13	9
12	10	9	9	11	11	6	13	14	12	12	6	9
13	15	7	5	14	11	9	6	12	16	17	12	21
14	10	4	12	10	14	4	10	21	10	4	13	17
15	12	6	14	11	12	12	12	16	14	11	10	18
16	5	15	6	15	9	9	7	13	9	9	16	18
17	12	11	14	14	7	9	14	13	13	10	12	13
18	11	11	8	7	7	10	15	14	15	9	17	10
19	3	10	8	14	17	10	12	11	15	12	19	15
20	8	10	10	8	8	11	4	19	11	16	9	18
21	17	12	9	8	7	16	10	18	19	11	14	17
22	10	10	17	13	11	16	7	14	19	9	12	12
23	5	11	13	11	6	10	6	27	10	9	19	20
24	9	10	13	14	6	4	16	18	12	6	10	15
25	18	14	9	11	16	9	9	14	17	11	7	13
26	14	19	10	8	8	9	14	12	16	12	13	10
27	15	9	16	14	6	4	22	17	19	11	14	16
28	6	7	10	5	15	6	10	14	8	9	14	5
29	10	12	19	13	12	9	20	12	12	9	9	16
30	8	....	11	11	6	15	12	23	16	14	14	19
31	11	....	9	....	6	....	11	13	....	10	....	11
	333	309	357	321	310	275	324	455	431	357	354	427

The following table shows the population of each ward, the per centage of the same to that of the whole city, the number of deaths in each ward, and their per centage to the entire mortality. The population is set down as given by the census of 1855, and includes that portion of South Boston known as Washington Village.

WARDS.	Population.	Per Cent. of Population.	Number of Deaths.	Per Cent. of Deaths.
1	19,264	11.83	634	14.90
2	15,963	9.80	509	11.96
3	13,175	8.09	318	7.47
4	7,912	4.86	119	2.79
5	10,428	6.40	343	8.06
6	11,597	7.12	215	5.05
7	18,430	11.32	472	11.09
8	12,690	7.79	328	7.71
9	9,541	5.86	212	4.98
10	12,553	7.71	310	7.28
11	13,264	8.15	328	7.71
12	17,931	11.01	465	10.93
	162,748	99.94	4253	99.93

By comparing the above statement with the similar one of the previous year, a considerable difference will be observed. In eight wards,—the first three, the 5th, 6th, 9th, 10th, and 11th,—this year's table shows an increase in the number of deaths, while wards 4, 7, 8, and 12, exhibit a considerable decrease. In ward 3

there is an increase of three deaths, but the percentage is slightly diminished. In ward 4 there are recorded 119 deaths, being 2.79 per cent. only of all the deaths, against 135 deaths, and a percentage of 3.30 of the previous year. Wards 7, 8, and 12, present the most favorable change: the first showing the diminished number of 472 deaths, with a percentage of 11.09 against 513 deaths, and 12.57 per cent., and the latter 465 deaths, and a percentage of 10.93, contrasted with 526 deaths, and 12.89 per cent. Ward 6 has retrograded. The number that died there in 1855 was only 160, making 3.92 per cent. of the whole number of deaths. This year's table gives 215 as the number of deaths, and 5.05 as the percentage. Reference to the statement concerning *Scarlatina* will show, that the prevalence of that disease does not account for the increase of mortality in that locality. The greatest increase was in ward 6, being 55 deaths; and the greatest decrease in ward 12, a decrease of 61.

It is proper to state, that the deaths allotted to ward 2, comprise 100 that occurred in the State Hospital at Rainsford Island, and 34 that took place at Deer Island. Ward 5 has to bear the burden of 118 deaths that occurred in the Massachusetts General Hospital, and five in the Suffolk Jail; and lastly, South Boston is made to include 31 deaths in the Lunatic Asylum, and 11 in the House of Correction. This explanation will serve to restore wards 2 and 5 somewhat to a level with the sanitary condition of their sister wards; but no such excuse can be urged in behalf of the north-end ward. Although the population of ward one is the largest of the twelve,—making 11.83 per cent. of the entire population,—there is no good reason why the deaths there

should amount to near 15 per cent. of the entire mortality.

The aggregate ages of all who died in Boston during the year 1856, amount to 83,743 years,—allowing an average age of 19.69 years. The previous year the average age was 19.88. If the aggregate ages of those who died from casualties, &c., be deducted from the gross amount, the average age will be 19.39 years, a considerable reduction from the result of the preceding year, when the average age was nearly 21 years. If the sum of the whole be divided according to sexes, (excluding casualties, &c.,) the aggregate ages of the males will amount to 36,566 years, giving to them an average age of 17.77 years.

The aggregate ages of 1,970 females, (exclusive of 64 who died from casualties, &c.,) amount to 41,520 years, which give an average of over 21 years. In the previous year, the average age was over 22 years.

The aggregate ages of those who were native born, amount to 37,374 years, allowing an average age of 24.58 years. Native born males number 773, giving 21.53 years to each. Native born females number 747. Their aggregate ages reach 20,724, yielding an average of 27.74 years, being more than six years in their favor over the males.

The number of foreigners who died (thus terming all under 21 years of age born of foreign parents) was 2,733. Their aggregate ages amount to 46,368 years, which allows them an average age of 16.96 years, more than seven years below the average age of the native born population. The aggregate ages of foreign males amount to 24,080, and allow to that sex the average age of 16.65 years.

The average age of foreign females amounts to 17.31, being nearly one year in their favor over the males, but falling more than *ten* years below that of the native born females.

There died 537 married males,—twenty less than were reported the preceding year,—and furnishing 12.62 per cent. of all the deaths, and 24.20 of all the males. Of the whole number, foreigners furnish 336, or 62.56 per cent. Of widowers, there died 64,—33 native, and 31 foreign born,—four more than died the previous year. The number of married females that died is 471, or over 11 per cent. of all the deaths, and 23.15 per cent. of the females. Of the entire number, foreign females contribute 276, or 58.59 per cent. It will be observed, that of the deaths among the married portion of the community, the foreign born contribute much the largest number; while among the widowers and widows the scale is slightly turned the other way.

The number of colored persons that died during the year was 71,—eight more than was recorded the preceding year. Of these, 38 were males, and 33 females. The aggregate ages of these amount to 1,964 years, giving to them an average age of 27.66. The aggregate ages of the males are 1,142 years, of the females, 822, allowing to the former an average age of 30 years, and to the latter very near 25 years. According to the census of 1855, the deaths among the colored population were as one in 31.26—a slight advance on the result of the previous year. Among the whites the rate of mortality is as 1 in 38.38—against 1 in 39.96 the previous year.

There were two deaths of centenarians, both females, reported as having reached the ages of 101 and 110 years.

VII. *Abstract of the BILL OF MORTALITY of the Year 1856, showing the Deaths each Month, with the Sex and Age of the Deceased.*

Under 1 year		1 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		15 to 20		20 to 30		30 to 40		40 to 50		50 to 60		60 to 70		70 to 80		80 to 90		90 to 100		Totals			
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F				
January,		50	33	38	45	5	3	1	2	5	7	19	24	15	18	15	6	5	12	6	4	2	8	2	5	1	*2	164	161
February,		45	32	39	34	7	5	1	4	4	8	16	16	13	15	16	9	11	2	6	6	8	6	2	3	....	*1	168	141
March,		46	28	40	33	10	3	4	4	5	11	27	26	20	15	14	11	9	4	7	14	6	10	1	7	1	1	190	167
April,		32	25	37	39	6	11	4	4	4	3	23	24	22	19	14	11	6	5	9	6	3	7	1	1	....	....	166	155
May,		33	26	35	29	12	10	4	2	8	7	18	17	15	15	22	12	5	9	5	6	5	7	2	4	1	1	165	145
June,		33	24	36	16	4	2	7	1	3	6	20	25	13	17	15	11	10	6	9	7	5	2	....	1	....	2	155	120
July,		34	41	34	38	12	6	6	1	5	4	29	17	13	11	17	8	11	7	6	6	2	5	2	4	....	....	176	148
August,		91	79	70	40	7	4	1	5	5	4	16	21	20	22	14	19	8	4	6	3	2	9	1	4	....	....	241	214
September,		76	64	59	57	8	6	1	2	7	7	16	17	7	23	13	13	17	6	7	8	2	10	1	3	....	1	214	217
October,		31	41	59	38	7	9	2	....	2	7	15	27	24	20	16	10	9	10	5	7	2	7	1	7	....	1	173	184
November,		33	37	56	44	9	9	3	4	4	5	16	19	18	14	25	18	8	8	8	9	....	3	....	3	1	....	181	173
December,		42	41	71	51	18	22	4	3	5	7	25	21	18	17	13	9	12	9	9	12	6	6	3	3	....	....	226	201
		546	471	574	464	105	90	38	32	57	76	245	254	203	206	194	137	111	82	83	88	43	80	16	45	4	9	2219	2034

* Two of these were of the ages of 101 and 110 respectively.

Stillborn children are classed differently by those who are engaged in mortuary statistics ; by some among the births, and by others among the deaths. In the present report they are tabulated below by themselves. The number reported the past year was 273—161 males and 112 females—an increase of 45 over the number recorded the previous year. They were reported as follows:—

	Males	Females		Males	Females
In January,	10	9	In July,	14	9
February,	12	6	August,	12	8
March,	18	8	September,	12	5
April,	15	14	October,	17	14
May,	19	8	November,	6	7
June,	19	14	December,	7	10
				161	112

Three of the males in March were triplets. To the number of deaths, instances of stillborn children are as 1 in 15.57. Compared with the births, they are as 1 to 21.69.

The following analysis of table VII. will show the ratio of deaths in certain periods of life to the entire mortality. Whole number of deaths, 4,253. There died,

	1856				1855			
Under 1 year, ..	1017	Being	23.91	Percent.	1045	Being	26.61	Per cent.
1 to 2 do ..	515	1033, being	12.10	} 24.40	964	Do	23.62	Do
2 to 3 do ..	259		6.08					
3 to 5 do ..	264		6.20					
5 to 10 do ..	195	Being	4.58	Percent.	152	Do	3.72	Do
10 to 15 do ..	70	Do	1.64	Do	56	Do	1.37	Do
15 to 20 do ..	133	Do	3.12	Do	135	Do	3.30	Do
20 to 30 do ..	499	Do	11.73	Do	469	Do	11.49	Do
30 to 40 do ..	409	Do	9.61	Do	423	Do	10.36	Do
40 to 50 do ..	331	Do	7.78	Do	273	Do	6.69	Do
50 to 60 do ..	193	Do	4.53	Do	209	Do	5.12	Do
60 to 70 do ..	171	Do	4.02	Do	151	Do	3.70	Do
70 to 80 do ..	123	Do	2.89	Do	130	Do	3.18	Do
80 to 90 do ..	61	Do	1.43	Do	62	Do	1.51	Do
90 to 111 do ..	13	Do .....	.30	Do	11	Do	.26	Do
	4253		99.92		4080		99.93	

The number of children that died under one year of age is 28 less than in the previous year. Such is also the case in regard to those dying in each of the five periods between 15 and 20, 30 and 40, 50 and 60, 70 and 80, and 80 and 90.

The following table, embracing all who died between 1 day and 20 years of age, arranged according to percentage, will be of some interest to those familiar with vital statistics :

VIII. TABLE, showing the Parentage of those who died in Boston in 1856, between the Ages of
One Day and Twenty Years.

AGES.	American Parentage.			Foreign Parentage.			American Parentage.			Foreign Parentage.		
	Males	Females	Totals	Males	Females	Totals	Males	Females	Totals	Males	Females	Totals
1 day,	8	8	16	50	30	80	103	56	159	189	167	356
1 day to 1 week,	15	8	23	25	24	49	35	29	64	107	88	195
1 week to 1 month, ..	13	16	29	46	32	78	38	35	73	102	89	191
1 month to 3 months,	29	29	58	54	48	102	32	36	68	73	54	127
3 months to 6 months,	45	26	71	62	66	128	12	13	25	26	19	45
6 months to 1 year, ..	39	41	80	160	143	303	25	30	55	32	46	78
Totals,	149	128	277	397	343	740	245	199	444	529	463	992

By an examination of the above, the following result will be seen: Of the 1,017 children who died under one year, 96 or 9.43 per cent. died on the day of their birth; of these, 80 were of foreign parentage. Of the whole number that died under one year, 383 or 37.65 per cent. died between six months and one year. Of this number the children of foreign parents comprise 303 or 79.11 per cent. Those dying under six months, number 634 or 14.90 per cent. of all the deaths, and of which the children of foreign parents number 437 or 68.92 per cent.

The following table contains all foreigners over twenty years of age.

IX. *Showing the BIRTHPLACES of FOREIGNERS, over Twenty Years of Age, who Died in Boston in 1856.*

BIRTHPLACES.	20 to 25		25 to 30		30 to 40		40 to 50		50 to 60		60 to 70		70 to 80		80 to 90		90 to 100		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
England,	3	....	4	4	8	7	4	3	5	3	3	....	1	....	1	1	1	....	29	19
Ireland,	61	46	57	62	107	114	92	77	54	43	34	32	17	19	5	7	1	4*	428	404
Scotland, .....	....	....	2	2	2	3	4	....	....	....	....	1	1	1	1	1	....	....	10	8
British American Provinces,	8	5	5	5	9	11	....	5	....	4	2	2	1	1	....	....	....	....	25	33
Germany,	2	2	7	6	4	3	11	3	2	....	1	1	1	1	....	1	....	....	28	17
Totals,	74	53	75	79	130	138	111	88	61	50	40	36	20	23	7	10	2	4	520	481

* Two of these were of the ages of 101 and 110.

It will be seen by the preceding table, that of 1,800 persons who died over 20 years of age, 1,001 or 55.61 per cent. were foreign born. Of these, persons born in Ireland make 83.11 per cent.

Table X.—(Continued.)

CAUSES OF DEATH.	JAN.		FEB.		MAR.		APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUG.		SEPT.		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.		TOTALS
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Fever, Bilious,.....											1			1	2							1			5
Do Scarlet,	2	5		5	4	6	9	7	6	4	11	8	14	13	16	12	15	12	15	18	30	35	65	50	362
Do Typhoid,	4	1	3	3		6	4		3		2	3	3	1	4		2	7	3	3	5	3	6	4	70
Do Typhus,											1	1			2						1			1	6
Gangrene,																					1	1		1	6
Gravel,					1								1	2											1
Heart, Disease of.....	4	4	3	3	5	8	6	5	7	6	5	5	7	6	3	7	1	3	3	2	5	4	8	5	115
Hemorrhage,													1				1		2						4
Do of Lungs,	1	1			1		1		1												1				6
Do of Stomach,																					1				1
Hernia,																					1				1
Hip, Disease of.....			2	1		1			2		2				2		1				1				11
Hooping Cough,	5	2	4	5	2	4	2	2	3	2				1	5	3	4		5	1	5	1	1		57
Homicide,	1				1	1						1	1	1			1	1			2			1	11
Influenza,																				1				1	2
Intemperance,	2		2		2			1			2	1	1	2	2		4	4		1	5	1	6		33
Kidneys, Disease of.....	1						1	2	1								1				1				7

Table X.—(Continued.)

CAUSES OF DEATH.	JAN.		FEB.		MAR.		APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUG.		SEPT.		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.		TOTALS
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Suicide, by Laudanum,												1				1			1	2				1	6
Do Drowning,							1								1										2
Do Shooting,							1																		1
Do Jumping from a Window,									1																1
Do Arsenic,						1			1																1
Sun Stroke,													13	1											14
Syphilis,											1													1	3
Teething,	6	4	2	2	3	7	2	7	8	1	5	2	5	4	4	10	13	14	13	5	12	4	6	2	141
Tetanus,	1																								1
Throat, Disease of,	2	1	1	1	1	1																			5
Thrush,			1		1	1			1	1	1		1	1	2	5	4	2	3					2	28
Tumor of Abdomen,								1									1		1			1			4
Do Breast,																									2
Do Knee,																									2
Do Neck,														1											1
Do Liver,																								1	1
Do Ovary,																									2

Accidents.—The number of deaths from causes thus designated amount to 181,—29 more than were thus recorded the year previous. Those dying from *coup de soleil*, and a few others separately distinguished in the foregoing table, should, perhaps, be classed among the accidents: but as a matter of reference, they are presented in their present form. The number who died from external causes, including Suicides and Homicides, amount to 225 or 5.29 per cent. of all the deaths. The year before, the number of deaths from corresponding causes, fell below 4 per cent. of the entire bill of mortality.

Apoplexy.—Of the 33 who died from this cause,—being four less than the number reported in 1855,—22 were native born.

Diseases of the Bowels.—Sixty-one deaths from the various diseases thus classed, 42 of which were of *Inflammation of Bowels*, are reported in this year's table, against 48 the preceding year. Seven of the number are recorded under the somewhat *un-classic* term of "*Stoppage*," and 12 under the comprehensive one of "*Diseases of Bowels*." The last is a familiar designation in these reports, and is likely to be perpetual. A persistent attempt was made throughout the entire year to obtain specific terms for the causes thus reported, but in vain.

Diseases of the Brain.—Deaths from diseases of the brain amount to 130, or over 3 per cent. of the whole number of deaths. Of these, 42 were of *Inflammation of Brain*, and 71 of *Congestion of Brain*. The year previous the number thus classed was 135.

Cancer.—Sixteen deaths from this cause are recorded

this year, 16 less than the number reported in 1855. The location of the disease, in each case, has been specified with all possible accuracy.

Consumption.—As usual, this disease appears as the grand destroyer. Its totality of victims in the present table, is seen to be 760, an increase of 25 over last year's record, and making nearly 17.87 per cent. of all the deaths. Although there were less deaths from *Consumption* in 1855 than in 1854, there was an increase in the percentage of mortality from that cause in the former year. The present table shows an increase in the number of deaths, but a *relative* decrease in the percentage. By the following statement, it will be seen, that of those dying from this disease, foreigners make 63.81 per cent. The same class furnished 69 per cent. of the victims of the previous year.

	Males.	Females.
Of persons born in the United States, there died.....	111.....	164
“ “ “ “ Ireland.....	204.....	196
“ “ “ “ Germany and North of Europe,.....	10.....	7
“ “ “ “ England and Wales,.....	6.....	8
“ “ “ “ British American Provinces,	9.....	14
“ “ “ “ Scotland,.....	2.....	2
“ “ “ “ Other foreign countires,.....	6.....	3
“ Children of foreign parents,.....	5.....	13
	<hr/> 353	<hr/> 407

As usual, those born in Ireland furnish more than half of the victims, being no less than 52.63 per cent. of the entire number. As in last year's record, the Irish males and females furnish about an equal number, varying only eight, while the American females exceed the American males by 53. By the census of 1855, the Irish population is given as 69,236. The above table shows that 1 in every 173 of this number dies of Con-

sumption. The German population is stated to be 4,590, of which 1 in every 270 dies. The native population is given as 76,380, of which 1 in every 277.74 dies. When the employments, habits, and habitations of the class first named are considered, the fatality of this disease among them is not to be wondered at. The fact is significant, and is susceptible of but one inference.

The following table, giving the number of deaths from Consumption in each ward, and in the several public institutions, will prove interesting to all engaged in sanitary or mortuary matters:—

Wards.	Deaths.	Wards.	Deaths.	Public Institutions.	Deaths.
1	103	7	97	Mass. Hospital,	29
2	63	8	70	Lunatic Asylum,	12
3	51	9	45	Deer Island,	10
4	17	10	49	Rainsford Island,	21
5	39	11	45	House of Correction, ..	2
6	44	12	63		760

To those who are not residents of the City, or who are unacquainted with the topographical and other characteristics of the several wards, a few remarks regarding them may not be unacceptable.

Ward 1, the most populous ward of the twelve, comprises the north end of the city, and is entirely circumscribed on the east, north and west, by the Charles River. Its population is largely made up of foreigners, and embraces a portion of a district similar in character to that of the "Five Points" of New York. The ground is low and flat on the east, north, and extreme west, thickly studded with dwellings, mostly of an inferior character. Other portions of the ward comprise

elevated ground, and are occupied by dwellings of a respectable character. The deaths from Consumption in this ward make 16.24 per cent. of the entire mortality here.

Ward 2, or East Boston, is an island in the harbor, and ranks as the fourth ward in population. Portions of it are elevated ground, while others are low and marshy. The whole of it is fully exposed to the east winds which come from the sea. The deaths from Consumption in this ward make 16.80 per cent. of all the deaths here.

Ward 3 is the sixth in population, which is of a mixed character. Portions of it contain overcrowded tenements, presenting the usual characteristics of such a condition. The deaths from Consumption in this locality make 16.03 per cent. of all the deaths in this ward.

Ward 4 ranks twelfth in population. It embraces portions of North and Cross streets, and various populous lanes and alleys that intersect them. It was in this portion of the ward where no inconsiderable part of the mortality occurred. The deaths from Consumption make 14.28 per cent. of the mortality of the ward.

Ward 5 is at the west side of the city, with its western front on the Charles River. It is the tenth in population. The general condition of the streets is good, and the dwellings for the most part of a respectable character. The deaths from Consumption here make 17.70 per cent. of the whole number of deaths in the ward.

Ward 6, the ninth in population, adjoins ward 5, with the same western boundary, but occupies much more elevated ground. Its southern line is the Common, in

the vicinity of which are some of the most costly residences in the city. It is well to state, that it is in this ward that the great bulk of the colored population reside, of whom, however, only ten died of Consumption. The deaths from this disease here make 20.46 per cent. of the whole mortality in the ward.

Ward 7 is the second in population, and is largely made up of foreigners. It embraces the "Fort Hill" district, with its eastern boundary fronting on the water, in close proximity to which are numerous tenements, huddled so closely together as to admit of little or no ventilation, and scarcely allowing any approach to cleanliness. The deaths in this ward number 472, of which those from Consumption make 20.55 per cent.

Ward 8, the seventh in population, is largely made up of ground formed by filling up the wharves on its eastern boundary. This ward also contains a large foreign population, inhabiting overcrowded, ill-ventilated dwellings, the cellars of which are filled with water at the rising of the tide. Of the entire mortality of the ward, Consumption makes 21.34 per cent.

Ward 9 is the eleventh in population, and embraces that portion of the city in which the Common is situated. Although many of its streets are narrow, the dwellings generally are of a respectable character. The mortality from Consumption makes 21.22 per cent. of all the deaths in the ward.

Ward 10 ranks as the eighth in population. The remarks used in reference to ward 8 are applicable to a portion of this ward. Of the mortality, Consumption makes but 15.80 per cent.

Ward 11, the fifth in population, comprises the

southern part of the city, known as the "Neck," a narrow strip of about a mile in length, and about half a mile in width. Its entire eastern line borders on South Boston Bay, while its western boundary is the Basin formed by the Mill Dam, the waters of which formerly overflowed a considerable portion of the "Neck." The streets of this ward mostly intersect each other at right angles, and are being rapidly filled up with dwellings of a superior character. The deaths from Consumption in this ward amount to but 13.78 per cent. of the mortality of the ward.

Ward 12, or South Boston, is a peninsula, and is the third in population, a large proportion of which are foreign-born. Its situation is elevated, with most of its streets laid out at right angles and filled up, with but few exceptions, with houses of a respectable character. The deaths from Consumption in this ward make but 13.54 per cent. of the mortality from all causes.

The deaths from Consumption in the various Public Institutions amount to 74, being 24.74 per cent. of the whole mortality in those places.

By the foregoing, it will be seen that of the twelve wards, the percentage of deaths from Consumption is greatest in ward 8, and the least in ward 12.

The subjoined statement, showing the occupations of all the males who died from Consumption, may be interesting as a matter of reference :

Laborers,	135	Masons,	2	United States Soldiers, ..	1
Traders,	16	Bakers,	2	Railroad Gatekeepers, ..	1
Tailors,	16	Hatters,	2	Innkeepers,	1
Clerks,	11	Coopers,	2	Tinplate Workers,	1
Printers,	10	Contractors,	2	Slaters,	1
Shoemakers,	10	Engravers,	2	Gardeners,	1
Mariners,	8	Harnessmakers,	2	Auctioneers,	1
Stonecutters,	6	Boardinghouse Keepers, ..	2	Marketmen,	1
Merchants,	6	Plumbers,	2	Confectioners,	1
Waiters,	6	Riggers,	2	Brushmakers,	1
Painters,	5	Eatinghouse Keepers, ..	2	Weavers,	1
Truckmen,	5	Lawyers,	2	Daguerrecotypists,	1
Carpenters,	5	Armors,	1	Silverplaters,	1
Machinists,	5	Sailmakers,	1	Paperhangers,	1
Pedlers,	3	Reporters,	1	Gasmakers,	1
Gentlemen,	3	Millers,	1	Artists,	1
Blacksmiths,	3	Hostlers,	1	Jewellers,	1
Clergymen,	3	Watchmakers,	1	Cabinetmakers,	1
Cooks,	3	Messengers,	1	Policemen,	1
Coppersmiths,	2	Editors,	1	Curriers,	1
Barbers,	2	Marbleworkers,	1	No occupations,	35
Bookbinders,	2				

The above shows that of the whole number of those whose occupations are given, Laborers make 42.45 per cent. Traders and Tailors each 5.03 per cent.; Clerks 3.04 per cent.; Printers and Shoemakers each 3.01 per cent.; Mariners 2.05 per cent.; Merchants, Waiters, and Stonecutters each 1.08 per cent.; and Painters, Truckmen, Carpenters, and Machinists each 1.05 per cent. The aggregate number of these 14 classes amounts to 244, making 69.12 per cent. of all the males dying from Consumption, while the remaining 50 classes, represented by 109 persons, make 30.87 per cent.

Convulsions—Contribute 109 to the bill of mortality,

of which number, the children of foreigners furnish 87. The preceding year there were 128 deaths from this cause, the victims being in like proportion from the same classes.

Cholera Infantum.—The deaths thus specified amount to 207, or nearly 4.87 per cent. of all the deaths. Of this number, children of foreign parentage comprise 151, while only 53 were children of native parentage.

Croup.—Presents a diminished number in this report, 120 against 145 the preceding year. The children of foreigners furnish 94 or 78.33 per cent. of the mortality from this cause.

Debility.—Fifty-five deaths thus designated appear in this year's table, the same number that occurred in 1855. Little reliance can be placed upon the cause of death thus specified.

Dysentery and Diarrhœa.—Contribute 123 and 25 respectively to the past year's mortality, a decrease of 18 of the former, and an increase of one of the latter, compared with the number recorded in 1855.

Infantile Diseases.—Deaths from diseases incident to infancy amount to 222, or nearly 5.22 per cent. of all the deaths. The previous year, this class of diseases made 6.81 per cent.

Dropsy.—Seventy nine deaths are reported, four less than occurred in 1855, 36 being of native born persons, the same number of foreign born, and seven recorded as children of foreign parents.

Dropsy in Head.—There is but little variation in the number that die from this cause from year to year. Like "Disease of the Bowels," it is a convenient term by which to designate those dying from unknown causes.

The present record shows that 162, or 3.80 per cent. of the entire mortality, died from this disease in 1856, of whom those of foreign parentage number 115, or 70 per cent. of the entire mortality from this cause.

Childbirth.—Of the 36 deaths from diseases incident to childbirth, 26 were foreign born females, and only 10 American. Nearly the same difference existed in the record of 1855, and exhibits a result contrary to the popular belief, that foreign born females possess more vigorous and enduring physical organizations than those born here. The premature resumption of domestic labors, and exposure, by foreign born females after childbirth, undoubtedly are the chief causes of this disparity.

Erysipelas—Furnishes a reduced number in this year's table—26 against 36 the year before. This is the same number that died of it in 1852, and is the smallest number reported in any one of the preceding seven years.

Typhoid Fever.—Seventy instances of death from this disease are noted in this year's table, 8 less than occurred in the preceding year, of which Americans contribute 42, and foreigners 28, about the same proportion recorded in last report. Of deaths from *Typhus Fever*, the present record shows a decrease of one half.

Diseases of the Heart.—Of the class of diseases thus denominated, embracing *Pericarditis*, and others not specifically ascertained, 115 are reported, an increase of 20 over the number recorded the preceding year. These diseases comprise 2.70 per cent. of all the deaths. Americans furnish 63 instances, foreigners 44, and children of foreigners 8.

Homicides.—Deaths from violence are 3 less than were recorded in last report.

Hooping-Cough.—But 57 deaths from this cause are recorded this year, 21 less than in 1855, only 12 of which were children of American parents.

Intemperance.—The number thus recorded is 36, an increase of 5 over the number reported the year before. For each of the last seven years, deaths from this cause have appeared as follows:—15, 12, 17, 22, 28, 45, 31, a gradual increase, the largest number being in 1854. Of the whole number recorded this year, 13 were American born.

Diseases of the Liver.—Have caused 32 deaths the past year. As this much-abused organ is often made to bear more than its proper proportion of the diseases of the human subject, every report which locates the cause of death in it, is to be closely scrutinized. As it is the prime point of attack from the combined forces of syrups and pills, it may not, perhaps, be wondered at if it should be subject to about half of the diseases that afflict mankind.

Diseases of the Lungs.—Of this class of diseases 261 deaths have occurred, an increase of 35 over the number reported the previous year, and embraces Pneumonia, Congestion of Lungs, and some specified as "Diseases of the Lungs." These diseases have been very fatal this year, and contribute 6.13 per cent. to the entire mortality. Americans furnish 100 to the number of victims, foreigners 50, and children of foreigners 111. With the exception of the months of June, July, and August, the deaths from these diseases were very evenly distributed throughout the remaining nine months.

Marasmus.—There are recorded 89 instances of death from this cause. The same suspicion attaches to this

term, so far as affects this report, as to the others before alluded to. It is gratifying to see, however, that 77 cases less of this disease are subjected to suspicion this year than were recorded the year before.

Measles.—There has been a slight increase in the number of deaths from this cause the present year, 77 being the number, of which children of foreign parents furnish 61, or 79.22 per cent. of the total amount.

Old Age.—The instances thus reported in this year's table are but 57, 13 males and 44 females, 24 less than the number recorded the year before; 37 were American born, and 20 foreign born. The average age of both the native and the foreign males was 85 years. Foreign females average 85 years, and the American females but 83.

Paralysis and *Pleurisy* give 39 and 53 respectively to the bill of mortality, an increase in the number of each.

Scarlatina.—Next to Consumption, this disease has been the most destructive, enrolling in its list of victims no less a number than 362, or 8.51 per cent. of all the deaths. It has been prevailing since March last, in which month 10 deaths occurred, gradually increasing, with slight variations, to the end of December, in which month 115 deaths occurred. Two-thirds of the deaths from this disease took place in wards 1, 2, 3, 9, 11 and 12, while only 8 happened in ward 4. It may be interesting to tabulate the instances, as follows:

Wards.	Deaths.	Wards.	Deaths.	Wards.	Deaths.	Wards.	Deaths.
1	68	4	8	7	25	10	26
2	38	5	26	8	21	11	40
3	31	6	16	9	30	12	33

The ages at which death occurred, are as follows:

Under 1 year,	23	From 3 to 5 years,	96
From 1 to 2 years,	72	From 5 to 10 years,	78
From 2 to 3 years,	76	From 10 to 15 years,	8

There were reported two instances where the subjects were said to be over 30 years, and one of 40 years: they are so recorded in the table of "Causes of Death," but some doubt exists in regard to the correctness of this assignation. Of the deaths from this cause, 95 are reported as of native birth, 28 were foreign born, and 239, or 66 per cent. of the whole number, were children of foreigners. The last two classes make 73.75 per cent.

Small Pox.—The number of deaths from this disease is 78, against 182 the previous year, a decrease of 104. But five cases have occurred since June last, and none subsequent to August, in which month, only two deaths are recorded. Of the whole number of cases, those of native birth make 53.84 per cent.

Suicides.—Of these, 10 instances were native born, the whole number being three less than occurred the year before.

Teething.—The present record contains 141 deaths thus designated, or 3.31 per cent. of all the deaths. The year previous, there were reported 196 cases. There can be little doubt that many of these were susceptible of more correct designations.

Worms.—Occasioned 12 deaths, the entire number being children of foreigners.

Unknown Diseases.—The major portion of the deaths thus recorded were of children—116 out of 158. These and those dying from "Infantile Diseases," which might

very properly be classed with them, make 380, and comprise 8.93 per cent. of the entire mortality.

The following table contains 4,036, or 94.89 per cent. of the deaths, and gives the birthplaces and parentage of the deceased. It will be noticed, that of the number of deaths recorded, foreigners and their children make 65.51 per cent., or stand towards those born here in the ratio of nearly two to one.

Causes of Death.	Number	Native	Foreign	Foreign Parentage	Causes of Death.	Number	Native	Foreign	Foreign Parentage
Accidents,	181	54	84	43	Heart, diseases of	115	63	44	8
Apoplexy,	33	22	11	.....	Homicides,	11	3	6	2
Bowels, diseases of	61	32	19	10	Hooping Cough, .	57	12	2	43
Brain,, do do	130	48	20	62	Intemperance, ...	33	12	24	.....
Consumption,	760	275	467	18	Liver, diseases of .	32	10	22	.....
Convulsions,	109	18	4	37	Lungs, do do .	261	101	50	110
Cholera Infantum,	207	53	3	151	Marasmus,	89	42	3	44
Croup,	121	25	2	94	Measles,	77	9	7	61
Diarrhoea,	25	14	10	1	Old Age,	57	37	20	.....
Dysentery,	123	51	31	41	Paralysis,	39	27	12	.....
Debility,	55	23	32	.....	Pleurisy,	53	12	37	4
Dropsy,	73	36	36	6	Scrofula,	18	12	3	3
Dropsy in Head, ..	152	42	105	5	Small Pox,	78	42	14	22
Diseases, Infantile,	222	45	.....	177	Suicides,	18	10	8	.....
Do Puerperal,	36	10	26	.....	Teething,	141	33	2	101
Erysipelas,	26	12	7	7	Thrush,	28	23	.....	5
Fever, Typhiod, ..	70	42	25	3	Worms,	11	.....	1	10
Do Typhus, ...	6	4	2	.....	Unknown,	153	38	25	95
Do Scarlet, ...	362	95	28	239					
Totals,						4036	1392	1192	1452

XI. TABLE *showing the DEATHS in Boston in 1856, from other than Natural Causes.*

ACCIDENTS.	M	F	ACCIDENTS.	M	F
Drowned,	52	7	Run over by vehicles,	3	3
Killed on Railroads,	9	...	Choked by piece of meat,	1	...
Killed by fall of pile of coals,	2	...	Fracture of skull by fall,	3	2
Do do plank,	1	...	Fracture of leg by fall,	2	...
Do do bricks,	1	1	Killed by fall of ice from a house, ..	1	...
Do do derrick,	1	...	Thrown from sleigh,	1	...
Do do bale of cotton, ...	1	...	Jumped from windows, .....	...	2
Do do brick wall,	1	...	By abortion, .....	...	2
Do do wagon, .....	...	1	By chloroform, .....	...	1
Do kick of a horse,	1	...	By nitric acid,	2	...
Do sunstroke,	13	1	Burned,	11	18
Do drinking cold water, ...	1	...	Scalded,	6	7
Fell through scuttles,	3	...	Suffocated,	3	4
Do from a scaffold,	1	...	Crushed by ferryboat,	1	...
Do down stairs,	5	1	Poisoned, .....	...	2
Do from houses,	6	...	Not specified,	1	...
Do do windows,	2	1	SUICIDES :		
Do against an iron door,	1	...	By Laudanum,	3	3
Do into vessel's hold,	1	...	Drowning,	2	...
Do from vessel's masts,	2	...	Hanging,	5	1
Do do pile of lumber,	1	...	Shooting,	1	...
Do overboard (not drowned,) ....	...	1	Arsenic,	1	1
Crushed by a ship,	1	...	Jumping from window,	1	...
Killed by discharge of cannon,	1	...	Homicides,	6	5
Totals,			161	64	

The following table will show the influence of some occupations on health. Laborers, Mariners, Carpenters, Teamsters, Blacksmiths, Machinists, Stonecutters, Masons, and others, whose employments are out of doors, can be viewed by the side of others whose occupations are of a

sedentary character, such as Tailors, Shoemakers, Printers, &c.

XII. Showing the Aggregate and Average Ages of 891 persons who died in Boston in 1856, whose Professions and Occupations were ascertained.

No.	Occupations.	Ages ranging from	Aggregate Ages.	Average Ages.
308	Laborers,	16 to 86	12,648	41.06
51	Traders,	21 to 77	2,298	45.05
50	Mariners,	18 to 75	1,674	33.48
29	Merchants,	24 to 90	1,539	53.06
29	Clerks,	16 to 56	808	27.86
25	Tailors,	21 to 65	900	36.00
25	Carpenters,	19 to 81	1,105	44.20
22	Shoemakers,	17 to 75	804	36.54
17	Printers,	16 to 60	585	34.41
14	Teamsters,	24 to 53	539	38.50
14	Painters,	20 to 66	527	37.64
13	Blacksmiths,	22 to 58	457	35.15
20	Gentlemen,	23 to 90	1,222	61.10
11	Machinists,	16 to 54	381	34.63
10	Farmers,	40 to 79	587	58.70
9	Coopers,	22 to 92	459	51.00
9	Stonecutters,	21 to 56	365	40.55
8	Ship Carpenters,	27 to 69	314	39.25
7	Bakers,	25 to 53	276	39.42
7	Musicians,	22 to 62	257	36.71
6	Clergymen,	49 to 78	341	56.83
5	Cabinetmakers,	16 to 26	105	21.00
5	Coppersmiths,	18 to 38	130	26.00
5	Physicians,	53 to 78	358	71.60
8	Masons,	21 to 80	379	47.37
4	Lawyers, etc.	32 to 68	178	44.50
180	Various Occupations,	16 to 82	6,899	30.82
891	.....	.....	36,135	40.55

Laborers.—The foregoing exhibits 308 deaths among this class, or 34.56 per cent. of the whole number enumerated in the table. The number of laborers recorded is three more than were reported last year, and makes 7.24 per cent. of all the deaths. Their average age is one year more than that of the previous year. Nineteen-twentieths of them were born in Ireland.

Traders.—These comprise the next most numerous class, and present an increase over the preceding year's record, together with a reduced average of life of four years.

Mariners.—Although 19 less of this class died in 1856 than in 1855, the present table gives them a diminished average life of five years.

Clerks—Contribute to this year's mortality only 29, against 45 the year before, and give an average age of four years less.

Merchants.—Twenty-nine of this class are reported, three less than the number recorded the year before, with an average age reduced nearly six years.

Tailors and Carpenters—Present each 25 as their portion of the mortality, the former with a reduced average age of three years, and the latter of one.

Shoemakers—Appear with a number reduced by two, and two years added to their average age.

Gentlemen—Follow next in order, numerically, contributing 20 to the list of deaths, against 12 the previous year, but with an increased average age.

Physicians.—Five Physicians are reported, with an average age of 71.60 years, the highest on the record.

The lowest average age is 21 years, belonging to five *Cabinet Makers*. The next is that of five *Coppersmiths*,

which reaches 26 years. With the exception of the last two, and the *Clerks*, no other class appears with an average age of less than 33 years.

The whole number have the average age of 40.55 years, one year less than the average of last year.

XIII. *Showing the NATIVITY of those who died in Boston in 1856.*

BIRTHPLACES.	M	F	BIRTHPLACES.	M	F
Boston,	1199	1066	Ireland,	475	452
Massachusetts, except }	189	201	England and Wales,	40	33
Boston, }			British Provinces,	36	43
Maine,	61	81	Germany, and North }	34	21
New Hampshire,	53	45	of Europe, }		
Vermont,	17	13	Scotland,	13	8
Rhode Island,	9	8	Other Foreign Places,	20	6
Connecticut,	6	9	At Sea,	2	1
Other American States,	52	37	Unknown,	13	5
Totals,	1586	1460	Totals,	633	574

XIV. *Showing the Births, Deaths, Intentions of Marriage entered, and Marriages recorded each month of the year 1856.*

Months.	Births.	Deaths.	Intentions.	Marriages.
January,	491	333	295	278
February,	515	309	150	174
March,	514	357	205	157
April,	439	321	258	219
May,	426	310	294	229
June,	422	275	236	218
July,	524	324	190	213
August,	531	455	212	173
September,	502	431	238	200
October,	538	357	326	253
November,	491	354	301	302
December,	529	427	209	120
Totals,	5922	4253	2914	2536

INTERMENTS.

The interments in cemeteries in the city proper during the year just closed, amount to only 206, a decrease of 118 from the number that took place in 1855. Those in the two grounds at East Boston (the Jews' ground and that belonging to the city) number 539, an increase of 77. The number interred in the various burial places at South Boston is 256, an increase of 92. Interments at Deer Island, Rainsford Island, and the ground

connected with the House of Correction, amount to 129, an increase of 15 over the number interred in those places in 1855. It is gratifying to observe, that interments in the city proper are yearly diminishing. In 1855, 324, or less than 8 per cent. of the interments took place in the city; and during the year 1856, only 206 were interred here.

During the year, there were removed from the various cemeteries in the city, for final re-interment in other places, 202 bodies of persons deceased in previous years. During the same period, 103 bodies of individuals dying elsewhere, were brought into the city for interment.

Respectfully submitted,

N. A. APOLLONIO.

City Registrar's Office,
Jan. 31, 1857.

R E P O R T

BY THE

CITY REGISTRAR,

OF THE

Births, Marriages, and Deaths,

IN THE

CITY OF BOSTON,

FOR THE YEAR

1857.



BOSTON:

GEO. C. RAND & AVERY, CITY PRINTERS,

NO. 3, CORNHILL

1858.

City Document.—No. 9.

R E P O R T

BY THE

CITY REGISTRAR,

OF THE

Births, Marriages, and Deaths,

IN THE

CITY OF BOSTON,

FOR THE YEAR

1857.



BOSTON:

GEO. C. RAND & AVERY, CITY PRINTERS,

No. 3, CORNHILL.

1858.

CITY OF BOSTON.

In Common Council, Feb. 4, 1858.

Sent up.

S. W. WALDRON, JR., *President.*

In Board of Aldermen, Feb. 8, 1858.

Laid on the table, and seven hundred and fifty copies ordered to be printed.

Attest.

S. F. McCLEARY, *City Clerk.*

R E P O R T .

TO THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL :

The undersigned has the honor to submit his Annual Report concerning the Births, Marriages, and Deaths in the city of Boston during the year 1857.

In accordance with an ordinance authorizing the City Registrar to employ assistants to collect the information concerning Births, Mr. George Adams, the well known compiler of the "Boston Directory," was employed to perform this duty. The facilities which this gentleman possesses for procuring this information, and the experience which he has gained during the last seven or eight years in the same employment, are a satisfactory guarantee that the work has been well performed. Owing to the removals, however, that are constantly occurring from one part of the city to another, and from the city, doubtless some births have not been reported. The results of the canvass, however, are submitted to the City Council, with the conviction that they approach as near to accuracy as it was possible to make them.

The undersigned, on entering upon the duties of his office four years ago, attempted to reduce certain names, which had been spelt variously, to a uniform orthography ; but with only partial success. There are many persons, (most of whom, unfortunately, cannot read,)

who will insist on spelling their names in defiance of all etymological or orthographical law. In vain it is urged, that the name originated thus and so, assumed its correct form by a regular, etymological process, and that by no means should it appear as specified. This averment is met by the emphatic assertion, that his or her father and grandfather spelt their names thus ; and the controversy is ended by the pretty distinct observation, that it is very strange that one cannot be allowed to spell his name to suit himself. Such instances are not rare ; and, accordingly, a considerable number of names appear on the records as their owners *will* have them, and not as the recording officer believes to be correct.

The usual returns of the Births, Marriages, and Deaths, recorded in Boston, have been transmitted to the Secretary of State, conformably to law.

BIRTHS.

The whole number of Births recorded in the city of Boston during the year 1857, was 5,881,—2,980 males, and 2,901 females,—41 less than the number registered the previous year. It should be stated, however, that 62 of these births were in the Rainsford Island Hospital, five in the Deer Island Hospital, 161 in other towns in the State, and 75 out of the State. As the parents of these children are now resident in the city, their births are very properly registered here ; and as it is supposed that an equal number of children are removed from the city without having been registered, perhaps the recorded result is not very far from the true one.

The following is a comparative statement of the Births and Deaths in each ward. The births in the public institutions and those out of the city, (numbering 303,) together with the deaths in the hospitals, are excluded in the comparison.

Wards.	Per cent. of Births.	Per cent. of Deaths.	Wards.	Per cent. of Births.	Per cent. of Deaths.
1	13.01	13.69	7	11.77	11.57
2	12.56	8.23	8	6.34	7.17
3	7.81	8.79	9	5.89	4.95
4	2.22	3.61	10	7.29	6.11
5	4.93	4.19	11	10.30	8.36
6	4.39	4.95	12	13.42	11.06
				99.93	

It will be seen, that in wards 1, 3, 4, 6, and 8, the ratio of the deaths is greater than that of the births in the same places. While the deaths in ward 1 make 13.69 per cent. of all the deaths, (exclusive of those that occurred in public institutions,) the births in the same ward make but 13.01 per cent. of the whole number of births. The difference in ward 3 is still greater; 8.79 per cent. of the deaths occurred there, while but 7.81 per cent. of the births are found there. The difference is greatest in ward 4, where but 2.22 per cent. of the births occurred, while the deaths make 3.61 per cent. of the entire mortality. Wards 6 and 8 may rank with ward 1, although ward 8 presents rather the most unfavorable aspect.

In wards 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12, there is a gain by natural increase. The greatest increase is in ward 2,

where the births make 12.56 per cent. of the whole number of births, while the deaths there are only 8.28 per cent. of the entire mortality, showing an absolute increase of 4.28 per cent. Ward 12 comes next, showing a predominance of births over the deaths, of 2.36 per cent. Ward 11 falls a little below this proportion, but still presents a favorable record. Ward 10 ranks next, followed by wards 9, 5, and 7, in the order in which they are named.

There were 48 instances of twin-births, and 1 case of triplets. The parents of the latter were native-born. In 14 instances of the twins, both children were males; in 13, both were females; and in 21 instances, they were male and female. In 9 instances, both parents were born in the United States; in 24, both parents were born in Ireland; in 8, both parents were born in other foreign countries; while in 7 cases, 1 parent was native born, and the other foreign. In 1856, there were 52 cases of twin-births, and 2 of triplets.

There were but 34 instances of colored births,—a decrease of 16 in the number recorded the previous year.

I. NATIVITY of the Parents of Children born in 1857.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Both United States,	748	716	1464
Do England,	46	59	105
Do Ireland,	1394	1370	2764
Do Scotland,	31	16	47
Do Germany,	121	115	236
Do other Countries, unmixed,*	27	39	66
Do do mixed,†	59	42	101
Do British American Provinces,	51	49	100
Father United States, Mother British American Provinces, ..	39	45	84
Do do do Ireland,	67	67	134
Do do do other Countries,	30	25	55
Do do do Unknown,	7	3	10
Do Br. Am. Provinces, do United States,	32	27	59
Do do do Foreign Countries,	32	27	59
Do Ireland, do do	50	47	97
Do do do United States,	47	35	82
Do Foreign Countries, do do	54	55	109
Do do do Ireland,	72	91	163
Do do do British American Provinces, ..	27	34	61
Do do do Unknown,	1	1	2
Do Unknown, do United States,	4	6	10
Do do do Foreign Countries,	11	12	23
Both Unknown,	30	20	50
Total,	2980	2901	5881

* This term denotes that both parents, in each case, were born in the *same* country.

† This, that the parents, in each instance, were born in *different* countries.

By reference to the foregoing table, it will be seen that, of 1,464 children, both parents, in each case, were born in the United States. These make 24.89 per cent. of all the births. The number of instances in which the father only was native-born, is 283, or 4.81 per cent. of the whole number. The number of cases in which the

mother only was native born, is 260, or 4.42 per cent., very nearly the same proportion that exists in the case of native born fathers. The number of instances in which one or both parents were native born, is 2,007, or 34.12 per cent. In 1856, the proportion of the same classes was 32.23 per cent.

The number of instances in which one or both parents were foreign born, is 4,347, or more than 73.91 per cent. The instances in which both parents were foreign born, amount to 3,801, or 64.63 per cent. of the whole number of births. As usual, the Irish element predominates, amounting to 2,764, (117 less than that of 1856,) or 47 per cent. of all the births, 63.58 per cent. of all the cases in which either of the parents were foreign born, and 72.71 per cent. of all the births, where both parents were foreign born. The foregoing analysis shows that the materials from which the population of the city is made up, are very far from being homogeneous in their character. The 50 instances in which the birth-places of both parents are unknown, are not considered in the foregoing statement.

The following table shows the births by months in each of the years, from 1850 to 1857, inclusive.

II. BIRTHS *in each Month for the Years 1850 to 1857.*

	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857
January,	369	434	472	448	464	406	491	465
February,	352	397	436	409	448	440	515	456
March,	453	499	464	497	474	513	514	497
April,	415	408	440	449	472	437	439	437
May,	435	405	393	418	429	445	426	436
June,	416	424	434	408	431	454	422	441
July,	493	458	451	488	509	524	524	507
August,	434	478	464	494	519	516	531	536
September,	489	439	404	433	482	499	502	525
October,	466	448	445	484	507	512	538	527
November,	480	456	432	547	472	520	491	504
December,	477	492	473	521	481	550	529	550
Total,	5279	5338	5308	5596	5688	5816	5922	5881

MARRIAGES.

The Intentions of Marriage recorded during the year amount to 2,683,—231 less than the number recorded the previous year, and 378 less than that of 1855. The number of marriages received and entered to date, is 2,385,—298 less than the number recorded the previous year, and 617 less than the number recorded in 1855. The proportion of marriages recorded to the number of intentions entered, is somewhat smaller than it was the previous year. Making allowance for those who register their intentions, and are married in other places, and for a select few, whose sober second thought still keeps them in single blessedness, the number of certificates that are not returned is considered to be too large. While most of the clergymen are prompt

in making their returns, (thereby complying with the provisions of the law, and at the same time lessening the labor of registration,) there are a few who neglect to do so. There are clergymen who have not made any returns for a year ; it may be that these gentlemen have not officiated at any marriage for that length of time ; but it is hardly probable that such has been the case. Such remissness is not only a plain violation of a positive law, but it might prove of great injury to the parties married.

III. Showing the BIRTHPLACES of the Couples married.

BIRTHPLACES OF MALES.	BIRTHPLACES OF FEMALES.															Totals.	
	Boston.	Mass.	Maine.	New Hampshire.	Vermont.	Rhode Island.	Connecticut	Other States.	England.	Ireland.	Scotland.	British Provinces.	Germany.	Other Places.	Unknown.		At Sea.
Boston,	174	33	29		1	4	.....	6	6	19	.....	17	1	1	1	.....	297
Massachusetts, (except Boston,)	73	113	88	17	6	1	2	7	5	15	.....	17	1	.....	.....	.....	295
Maine,	36	33	100	12	7	.....	.....	8	7	9	.....	15	.....	.....	2	.....	224
New Hampshire,	30	21	31	13	5	2	.....	5	3	2	.....	5	.....	1	1	.....	124
Vermont,	12	10	9	10	7	1	.....	2	.....	5	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	61
Rhode Island,	1	2	.....	1	1	3	.....	1	.....	1	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Connecticut,	1	.....	1	2	1	1	1	2	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	12
Other States,	27	14	5	6	2	.....	2	15	6	19	2	7	.....	1	.....	.....	106
England and Wales,	5	2	4	3	1	1	.....	1	26	42	2	12	1	.....	.....	.....	100
Ireland,	17	5	1	.....	2	1	.....	4	11	633	2	19	2	1	1	.....	749
Scotland,	2	.....	2	.....	1	.....	1	1	2	14	4	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
British Provinces,	16	14	13	4	2	1	1	1	6	26	.....	33	.....	1	.....	.....	118
Germany, and North of Europe,	12	5	3	1	.....	.....	.....	1	6	31	.....	7	96	4	.....	1	167
Other Foreign Places,	5	2	2	1	.....	.....	.....	2	4	13	.....	3	4	29	.....	1	63
Unknown, .....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24	.....	26
Totals,	411	255	239	80	36	15	7	51	82	881	10	143	105	38	29	3	2385

It will be observed, that of the males married, 1,131 were born in the United States. This number makes 47.42 per cent. of all the males, which is an increase over the number in the previous year of nearly 7 per cent. Of this number, only 297, or 26.26 per cent., were born in Boston, a little over 26 per cent. in other towns in Massachusetts, while 38.28 per cent. were born in the other New England States. As usual, Maine furnishes a larger number of grooms than any other State, the number being 224,—26 more than that State contributed the previous year. New Hampshire is represented by just 100 less than Maine is,—an increase of 20 over last year. Vermont, Rhode Island and Connecticut, are represented by 86 grooms,—an increase of 6, leaving 106 males to be allotted to States south and west. A large portion of the grooms born in Maine and New Hampshire are not residents of Boston, but came to the city as a convenient Gretna Green. The remaining 1,228 males (exclusive of 26, whose places of birth are unknown) were born in various foreign countries, and make over 52 per cent. of all the grooms. Of these, natives of Ireland, as usual, contribute the largest number,—749, nearly 61 per cent. of the whole amount,—although this number is 211 less than that of the previous year. Germany and Northern Europe come next in order, furnishing nearly 13.60 per cent. of the foreign grooms. The British Provinces, with 118 grooms, and England and Wales, with 100, are represented by 218 grooms, or 17.75 per cent. of the same class.

Of the females, 1,094, or 45.87 per cent. of the whole number, were born in the United States,—an increase of nearly 7 per cent. over the number of the previous

year. Of the brides born in the United States, Boston contributes 37.56 per cent.; other towns in Massachusetts 23.30 per cent., and the remaining States 39.12 per cent. Of the remaining 1,259 females, (exclusive of 32, whose birthplaces are unknown,) those born in Ireland amount to 881, (200 less than the number of the previous year,) or nearly 70 per cent. of the whole number. Of the 1,025 males born in New England, 855 married New England females, a sufficient number to perpetuate the New England stock; 53 married Irish females, (the same number that was recorded the year before,) and 61 married females from the British Provinces. Of the 749 Irish males, 683, or over 91 per cent., married their countrywomen. There were only 30 Irish males who married American females.

IV. *Showing the AGES of the parties at the time of Marriage.*

AGES OF MALES.	AGES OF FEMALES.										Totals
	Under 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	Unknown	
Under 21 years, ..	26	13	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	42
21 to 25 do	232	483	78	11	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	806
25 to 30 do	125	408	244	50	6	1	1	.....	.....	2	887
30 to 35 do	25	102	138	55	7	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	323
35 to 40 do	11	37	56	44	27	4	1	.....	.....	.....	180
40 to 45 do	3	7	15	20	14	11	1	.....	.....	.....	71
45 to 50 do .....	.....	2	12	6	13	4	5	.....	.....	.....	42
50 to 60 do .....	.....	1	5	6	8	15	6	6	.....	.....	47
60 to 70 do .....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	2	2	5	2	.....	13
Over 70 do .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unknown, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19	19
Totals,	422	1054	551	193	76	37	17	11	2	22	2385

Of the males married, (exclusive of 19, whose ages are unknown) it will be seen that 35.37 per cent. married between the ages of 25 and 30, and over 34 per cent. married between the ages of 21 and 25; 26.24 per cent. married between the ages of 30 and 50; while 2.54 per cent. married between the ages of 50 and 70.

Of the females, (exclusive of 22, whose ages are unknown,) 44.60 per cent. married between the ages of 20 and 25; 23.31 per cent. married between the ages of 25 and 30; 17.85 per cent. married under 20 years of age; and 13.66 per cent. married between 30 and 50.

By an examination of the above table, some curious facts will be seen in the predilections of some of the couples in regard to each other's age. For example, while 26 young gentlemen under 21 years of age, chose their companions from females under 20, 3 others selected partners whose ages were between 25 and 30. Another man, between 25 and 30, married a female between 45 and 50; 25 over 30 years of age, 11 over 35 years, and 3 over 40 years, married females under 20; 2 over 45, 1 over 50, and 1 over 60, married females under 25.

Of the males married, 42 were minors,—a decrease of 18 from the number married the previous year. Of this number, 2 were 18 years of age; 7, 19; and 33, 20 years.

Of the females married under 20 years of age, 3 were but 14; 2, 15; 23, 16; 48, 17; and 150 were 18 years of age.

Of the 42 male minors married, 11 married females under 18 years of age; and 31 married females over that age. 42 females under 18 years of age married males over 21 years of age.

Of the 3 females married at 14 years of age, 1 married a male 18 years of age, (the youngest couple married,) 1 a minor of 20, and the other a man 23 years of age.

Of the whole number of males married, 343 married females older than themselves.

There were 34 marriages of colored parties, (12 less than the number married the previous year,) and 9 instances in which the males were black, and the females white. Last year there were 12 instances of this kind.

V. *Showing the CONDITION (whether Widowed or Single) and PLACES of RESIDENCE of the Parties Married.*

Males.	Females — No. of times Married.						Residences at Time of Marriage.		
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Unknown	Totals		Males	Females
1st Marriage, .	1847	148	4	.....	.....	1999	In Boston,	1865	1940
2d do	240	95	7	.....	.....	342	Other places in Mass.	377	320
3d do	13	6	1	.....	.....	20	Out of Mass.	143	125
4th do .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1			
5th do	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Unknown, ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	22			
Totals,	2101	250	12	.....	22	2385		2385	2385

The first marriages of males amount to 1,999, (150 less than the number of the previous year,) or nearly 84 per cent. of the whole number.

The first marriages of females are 2,101, (a decrease of 129,) or over 88 per cent. of all the marriages.

The number of instances of the first marriage of both

parties is 1,847, making 77.44 per cent. of the whole number. Of the males married for the first time, 148 married widows, and 4 married females who had been widowed twice. Of 342 widowers, 95 married widows, and 7 married those who had been twice widowed. Of 20 males who had been twice widowers, 13, and 1 whose essays in the matrimonial lottery numbered 4, made choice of wives from those who were wholly inexperienced in that condition.

In November, 1856, there were 302 marriages—a larger number than occurred in any other month. In August following, there were 536 births, a larger number (with one exception) than occurred in any other month. In March, 1857, only 113 marriages took place,—the least number that occurred in any month of the year. Should not the least number of births, therefore, be looked for in December, instead of the largest? The births in that month amounted to 550.

MORTALITY OF THE YEAR.

The following tables, exhibiting the Mortality of the year 1857, present a more favorable aspect than has been seen in either of the four preceding years. The number of deaths reported is 3,958,—295 less than the number recorded in 1856. This decrease is a very large one, and shows a condition of the public health of the most gratifying character. In 1850, the population of Boston was 138,788. The number of deaths in that year was 3,667,—being in the proportion of 1 death to 37.84 of the population. Estimating the population of the city at the present time at 170,000, the mortality of the past year appears only as 1 in 42.95. In 1856, the ratio was 1 in 39.

Compared with New York, Boston presents a striking contrast. While the former city has a population only about four and a quarter times larger than that of the latter, its mortality is nearly six times larger. The cause of this disparity is not to be sought for, certainly, in any advantages that Boston may be supposed to possess in the way of location ; for it would be difficult to imagine a city more favorably situated than New York, flanked by two noble rivers running its entire length, affording facilities for drainage unsurpassed by those of any other city. The favorable contrast which Boston presents to her sister city, is undoubtedly mainly owing to the excellence of its sanitary police. The efficiency of this system is seen in the yearly diminution of the mortality, and in the almost total absence of epidemic diseases.

By reference to the following table, it will be seen, that in only three months of the year 1857 was there an increase in the number of deaths over the number reported in the same months the preceding year, viz. : January, February, and September. In the first named month, there were 33 more than in 1856 ; in February, 3 ; and in September, 4. In each of the remaining nine months, there is a decrease in the present Report,—the decrease in December being no less than 126 ! This great falling off in the mortality of December, is accounted for by the prevalence of *Scarlatina* in that month of the year 1856, when 115 died from that disease. The mortality in September of this year was greater than that of any other month in the year. This is the sole example, at least for ten years, where August has failed to assume its bad pre-eminence.

VI. *Showing the DEATHS in BOSTON, on each day of the Year 1857, as reported by Funeral Undertakers, and others.*

DAY.	JANUARY.	FEBRUARY.	MARCH.	APRIL.	MAY.	JUNE.	JULY.	AUGUST.	SEPTEMBER.	OCTOBER.	NOVEMBER.	DECEMBER.
1	9	6	14	12	9	14	6	13	10	17	9	19
2	8	14	8	11	18	8	5	11	12	10	11	12
3	14	19	7	8	11	8	5	12	15	17	11	8
4	9	17	10	10	10	13	16	6	15	15	6	12
5	16	10	9	11	8	10	8	10	22	7	11	11
6	18	9	5	10	11	14	8	12	14	15	11	6
7	13	19	11	10	4	8	13	5	13	12	21	6
8	15	13	13	9	5	6	18	16	13	13	7	8
9	8	9	7	12	12	8	7	15	13	17	12	10
10	14	15	8	8	9	11	9	14	9	18	11	7
11	9	5	16	15	6	5	13	10	23	7	8	9
12	13	9	8	6	7	6	8	12	2	15	7	3
13	6	8	8	11	10	14	7	20	17	8	10	17
14	9	12	11	11	10	9	11	17	13	7	10	9
15	11	18	7	7	5	12	13	20	14	13	11	18
16	7	14	11	8	2	4	13	20	7	16	11	6
17	10	16	11	10	5	10	12	9	18	10	17	9
18	14	7	9	12	10	14	12	18	15	6	14	11
19	14	6	8	11	6	8	9	14	15	11	10	15
20	13	9	8	8	8	10	7	7	20	13	10	9
21	8	5	10	10	11	10	5	9	16	13	9	3
22	15	5	8	11	13	9	7	17	13	5	9	16
23	15	10	13	12	17	5	6	9	23	10	11	6
24	10	20	9	9	6	5	9	18	12	14	6	7
25	13	5	9	11	7	14	19	16	12	8	9	8
26	18	9	11	10	10	5	14	18	16	14	9	11
27	10	13	7	8	6	8	5	20	23	7	17	6
28	17	10	11	11	9	12	9	8	17	6	13	6
29	13	....	9	8	6	6	6	19	15	12	8	3
30	5	....	14	16	7	6	13	15	8	7	12	16
31	12	....	9	..	11	....	10	12	....	9	....	14
	366	312	299	306	269	272	303	422	435	352	321	301

The following table will show the mortality in each ward, and in the various public institutions, together with the ratio of the deaths in the same to the entire mortality :

WARDS.	1857		1856	
	Deaths.	Per Cent.	Deaths.	Per Cent.
1	542	13.69	634	14.90
2	328	8.28	375	8.81
3	348	8.79	318	7.47
4	143	3.61	119	2.79
5	166	4.19	220	5.17
6	196	4.95	215	5.05
7	458	11.57	472	11.09
8	284	7.17	328	7.71
9	196	4.95	212	4.98
10	242	6.11	310	7.28
11	331	8.36	328	7.71
12	438	11.06	423	9.94
Massachusetts Hospital,	128	3.23	118	2.77
Deer Island,	36	.90	34	.79
Rainsford Island,	88	2.22	100	2.35
Jail,	2	....	5	.11
Institutions at South Boston,	32	.80	42	.98
	3958	99.83	4253	99.90

By a comparison of the present year's result with that of last year, a considerable variation will be observed. In 1856, there were 634 deaths in ward 1, (that number being an increase of 47 over the number reported in 1855,) being 14.90 per cent. of the entire mortality of the year,—an unfavorable result compared with the other wards. Although there is a decrease the

present year of 92, or from 14.90 to 13.69 per cent., the proportion still seems too large. Ward 2 exhibits a diminution of 47 in its mortality, showing a fair condition of health. East Boston contains about 10 per cent. of the population of the whole city, while it contributes only 8.28 per cent. of the mortality. Ward 3 gives an increase of 30 over the mortality in that ward in 1856,—the per centage advancing from 7.47 to 8.79, but scarcely beyond its proper proportion of the whole mortality. In 1856, ward 4, containing 4.86 per cent. of the population, had but 2.79 per cent. of the deaths; in 1857, the deaths there made 3.61 per cent., but still sufficiently low to indicate a good condition of health. In ward 5, there has been a decrease of 54 in the number of deaths; while its population comprises about 6.40 per cent. of that of the whole city, its proportion of the deaths was only about 4.19 per cent. Ward 6 contains a little more than 7 per cent. of the entire population; its deaths the past year were 19 less, making nearly 5 per cent. of all the deaths, and presenting about the same condition noticed in last Report. There is a slight decrease in the mortality of ward 7, but an increase in its proportion of the mortality. This increase, however, is not above the amount that belongs to it. There is a decrease in wards 8, 9, and 10,—the largest decrease (68) being in ward 10. In wards 11 and 12 there is a slight increase. The deaths in South Boston in 1856, (exclusive of those that occurred in the city institutions there,) made 9.94 per cent. of the entire mortality, but more than one per cent. below its proper proportion. In 1857, the per centage was 11.06, corresponding within a slight fraction to its per centage of the entire population.

The aggregate ages of all who died during the year, amount to 82,785 years. The average age is 20.91 years,—more than a year above the average age in 1856. Leaving out those who died from external causes, the average age of those who died from disease alone, is 20.63 years,—a considerable increase over that of the preceding year. The aggregate ages of 1,934 males, (exclusive of those who died from casualties, &c.,) amount to 37,488 years, allowing an average age of 19.38 years, nearly two years above that of the year 1856. The number of females who died from natural causes is 1853. Their aggregate ages amount to 40,638 years, allowing an average age of nearly 22 years,—a slight advance on the result of the previous year.

The aggregate ages of those who were native born, numbering 1,183, amount to 32,622 years, yielding an average age of 27.57 years,—three years above that of the preceding year. The deaths of native born males, (not including those under 20 years of age of foreign parents,) were 567. Their average age was 25 years. The year before, the average age of this class was 21.53 years. Native born females number 616. Their average age was 29.94 years,—more than two years higher than that of 1856.

The aggregate ages of 2,604 foreigners, (embracing all under 20 years of age born of foreign parents, and excluding all who died from external causes,) amount to 45,503 years, allowing an average age of 17.47 years, about half a year above that of 1856. The aggregate ages of 1,367 foreign males amount to 23,313 years, which give an average age of 17 years,—a slight increase over the preceding year's average, but falling

eight years below that of native born males. The aggregate ages of 1,237 foreign females amount to 22,189 years, allowing them an average age of 17.93 years,—not quite a year above that of foreign males. The difference between the average ages of native and foreign born females, is nearly 12 years in favor of the former!

Much care has been observed in collating these facts; and as a like result has been reached in several successive years, little doubt is entertained that a very near approximation to a correct result has been attained. The facts are of an interesting character, and involve considerations of much weight. The remedy for a great proportion of the mortality among the foreign born portion of our population is beset with much difficulty, and requires a progress in mental and social culture, hardly to be expected among those who are the greatest sufferers. This great disparity is so unvarying in its occurrence, that it has almost ceased to elicit remark. That something should be done to diminish this sad havoc among the class referred to, will be evident to all; and a spirit of humanity would urge to instant action.

The deaths of married persons of both sexes amount to 984, or 24.86 per cent. of all the deaths. The males amount to 554, making about 14 per cent. of the entire mortality, (an increase of 1 1-2 per cent. over the result of the previous year,) and 26.68 per cent. of all the males. Of the married males, 374 (67.50 per cent.) were foreigners. Of married females, there died 430,—10.86 per cent. of all the deaths. Of this number, foreign females comprise about 62 per cent. Widowers number 63—31 Americans and 32 foreigners; and

widows, 262,—130 native born and 32 foreign born. It will be observed that the deaths of native born widows are four-fold more than those of foreign-born widows.

There died during the year, 73 colored persons—34 males and 39 females,—an increase over the number reported the previous year. Their aggregate ages amount to 1,843 years, allowing to them an average age of 25.24 years,—two years below that of 1856. The average age of the males is 24.79 years,—of the females, 25.46.

The oldest person that died was an Irish female, 98 years of age.

VII. *Abstract of the BILL OF MORTALITY OF the Year 1857, showing the Deaths each Month, with the Sex and Age of the Deceased.*

MONTHS		Under 1 year		1 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		15 to 20		20 to 30		30 to 40		40 to 50		50 to 60		60 to 70		70 to 80		80 to 90		90 to 100		Totals	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
January,.....		48	23	61	45	9	15	6	4	8	4	14	20	20	17	14	8	9	10	11	5	7	5	....	2	....	1	207	159
February,.....		46	25	44	48	5	8	1	3	5	4	12	18	15	20	8	12	11	4	7	2	1	4	....	5	1	3	156	156
March,.....		36	23	29	28	7	8	6	6	3	4	16	23	13	18	14	6	8	6	6	8	9	13	2	5	....	2	149	150
April,.....		38	30	34	28	9	11	5	2	7	5	22	23	15	18	10	11	7	7	7	7	2	5	1	1	....	1	157	149
May,.....		30	21	25	33	9	3	3	2	5	1	8	21	15	12	19	12	13	4	7	10	4	7	1	3	....	1	133	130
June,.....		27	23	24	34	6	7	2	2	4	4	12	15	18	15	14	12	10	5	13	7	5	5	....	2	....	....	135	137
July,.....		40	37	26	27	11	8	3	4	6	6	20	19	15	14	17	11	7	11	4	8	4	5	....	....	....	133	150	
August,.....		90	50	63	56	7	4	2	1	5	3	15	17	20	16	13	16	13	3	8	5	6	5	1	3	....	....	243	179
September,.....		72	60	58	47	8	7	6	1	10	9	22	18	24	19	13	8	6	8	4	7	12	8	2	3	1	2	238	197
October,.....		45	47	43	39	5	0	1	2	3	7	16	16	21	14	11	10	14	9	6	12	5	9	3	11	....	2	173	179
November,.....		36	35	35	31	4	6	1	3	2	5	16	20	18	16	27	12	17	10	5	5	6	6	2	3	....	....	169	152
December,.....		46	36	28	23	2	6	....	2	3	5	19	18	11	17	20	11	13	9	9	8	4	7	2	1	....	1	157	144
		554	416	470	439	82	84	36	32	61	57	192	228	205	196	180	129	128	86	87	84	65	79	14	39	2	13	2076	1882

The following analysis of the foregoing table, compared with that of the previous year, presents the yearly mortality in an interesting light :

		1857				1856			
Under 1 year, ..	970	Being	24.50	Per cent.	1017	Being	23.91	Per cent.	
1 to 2 do ..	483	Do	12.20	Do	515	Do	12.10	Do	
2 to 3 do ..	224	Do	5.65	Do	259	Do	6.08	Do	
3 to 5 do ..	202	Do	5.10	Do	264	Do	6.20	Do	
5 to 10 do ..	166	Do	4.19	Do	195	Do	4.58	Do	
10 to 15 do ..	68	Do	1.72	Do	70	Do	1.64	Do	
15 to 20 do ..	118	Do	2.98	Do	133	Do	3.12	Do	
20 to 30 do ..	420	Do	10.61	Do	499	Do	11.73	Do	
30 to 40 do ..	401	Do	10.12	Do	409	Do	9.61	Do	
40 to 50 do ..	309	Do	7.80	Do	331	Do	7.78	Do	
50 to 60 do ..	214	Do	5.40	Do	193	Do	4.53	Do	
60 to 70 do ..	171	Do	4.31	Do	171	Do	4.02	Do	
70 to 80 do ..	144	Do	3.63	Do	123	Do	2.89	Do	
80 to 90 do ..	53	Do	1.33	Do	61	Do	1.43	Do	
90 to 100 do ..	15	Do .....	.87	Do	13	Do .....	.30	Do	
	3958		99.91	Per cent.	4253		99.92	Per cent.	

The deaths of children under one year of age, in 1857, are 47 less than they were in 1856. Of those, in each of the specified periods from 1 year to 50, 2,391 deaths are recorded, against 2,675 in the previous year. In each of the decades between 50 and 100, (excepting that between 60 and 70, in which the mortality was the same each year,) a higher rate of mortality is recorded the present year.

The following table embraces all who died between 1 day and 20 years, which make 56.36 per cent. of all the deaths. In 1856, the mortality during the same period was 57.67 per cent.

VIII. TABLE showing the Parentage of those who died in Boston in 1857, between the Ages of
One Day and Twenty Years.

AGES.	American Parentage.			Foreign Parentage.			AGES.	American Parentage.			Foreign Parentage.		
	Males	Females	Totals	Males	Females	Totals		Males	Females	Totals	Males	Females	Totals
1 day,	19	5	24	53	34	87	1 to 2 years,	48	40	88	204	191	395
1 day to 1 week,	7	13	20	33	23	56	2 to 3 years,	31	30	61	85	78	163
1 week to 1 month, ..	18	16	34	44	31	75	3 to 5 years,	22	27	49	80	73	153
1 month to 3 months,	29	15	44	59	35	94	5 to 10 years,	24	26	50	58	58	116
3 months to 6 months,	33	18	51	75	35	128	10 to 15 years,	10	10	20	26	22	48
6 months to 1 year, ..	37	44	81	147	129	276	15 to 20 years,	21	23	44	40	34	74
Totals,	143	111	254	411	305	716	Totals,	156	156	312	493	456	949

The above table shows, that 111 children (being 2.80 per cent. of the entire mortality) died on the day of their birth. Of this number, children of foreign parents comprised more than 78 per cent. Seventy-six died when they were between one day and one week old; 109 between one week and one month; 138 between one and three months; 179 between 3 and 6 months; and 337 between 6 and 12 months. The number of children that died under 6 months, was 633,—about 16 per cent., or one-sixth of the whole mortality. The number that died between 1 and 5 years was 909, or nearly 23 per cent. of all the deaths. Between 5 and 10 years, there died 116, making 4.19 per cent. of the deaths; and between 10 and 15 years, only 68, or 1.71 per cent.

The above table has been prepared with much care, and is believed to be accurate. That the mortality among children of foreign parentage should be three times greater than it is among those of native parentage, seems almost incredible. A similar statement, however, was embraced in last Report, and a like result exhibited.

The annexed table comprises all of foreign birth over 20 years of age. The whole number of deaths of persons over 20 years of age was 1,727, of which those who were foreign born make 1,037, or 60 per cent. Of these last, persons born in Ireland make nearly 77 per cent.; the preceding year, the per centage was 83.11.

IX. *Showing the BIRTHPLACES of FOREIGNERS over Twenty Years of Age, who died in
Boston in 1857.*

BIRTHPLACES.	20 to 25		25 to 30		30 to 40		40 to 50		50 to 60		60 to 70		70 to 80		80 to 90		90 to 100		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
England,	1	3	3	4	8	6	12	2	4	1	5	5	1	3	1	1	....	....	35	25
Ireland,	38	44	38	63	99	105	95	73	67	37	37	33	27	25	2	10	1*	4	404	394
Scotland, .....	....	1	2	1	7	1	3	....	3	....	2	1	....	2	....	1	....	....	17	7
British American Provinces,	9	10	4	8	13	9	5	3	3	3	2	4	....	1	....	....	....	....	36	38
Germany,	1	....	6	1	15	2	12	7	4	1	1	1	....	2	1	....	....	....	40	14
Other places,	4	2	1	....	3	2	3	....	2	5	4	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	17	10
Totals,	53	60	54	77	145	125	130	85	83	47	51	44	28	34	4	12	1	4	549	488

The number of stillborns reported during the year is 271, — two less than the number recorded in 1856. They were returned as follows :

	MALES.	FEMALES.
In January,	11	11
February,	17	4
March,	17	9
April,	12	6
May,	11	6
June,	26	10
July,	12	14
August,	9	7
September,	9	12
October,	12	7
November,	13	8
December,	18	10
	167	104

The parentage of 110 of these still births was foreign, 116 native, and 45 unknown. Among the stillborns were eight pairs of twins.

X. *Showing the NATIVITY of those who died in Boston in 1857.*

BIRTHPLACES.	M	F	BIRTHPLACES.	M	F
Boston,	1078	977	England and Wales,	47	37
Massachusetts, except }	188	190	Ireland,	431	414
Boston, }			Scotland,	19	8
Maine,	60	65	Germany, and North }	47	19
New Hampshire,	45	37	of Europe, }		
Vermont,	15	15	British Provinces,	47	49
Rhode Island,	6	6	Other Foreign Places,	19	10
Connecticut,	7	14	At Sea,	1	1
Other American States,	49	29	Unknown,	17	11
	1448	1333		628	549

XI. Diseases and Causes of Death in Boston in 1857.

CAUSES OF DEATH	JAN		FEB		MAR		APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUG		SEPT		OCT		NOV		DEC		TOTAL	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Abscess,	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	4	1
Accidental,	8	2	9	5	10	...	10	1	11	3	11	1	18	2	15	...	7	1	7	2	7	2	7	3	120	22
Anenorrhoea, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Anemia, .....	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
Aneurism, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Apoplexy, .....	...	1	1	...	1	1	2	3	5	1	2	...	2	...	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	2	4	1	25	13
Arteries, Ossification of .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Asthma, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	2
Bladder, Inflammation of .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Bowels, Diseases of	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	1
Do Inflammation of	1	3	2	...	1	2	3	...	3	...	2	4	3	4	...	3	3	1	2	1	2	2	1	...	23	20
Brain, Diseases of	1	1	2	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	3	2	2	1	11	11
Do Congestion of	6	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	...	1	1	4	3	2	2	...	2	2	...	3	2	2	1	2	22	21
Do Inflammation of	1	...	1	...	...	...	3	2	2	1	3	1	4	1	1	3	4	2	...	3	1	1	2	2	22	16
Do Softening of	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	1
Bronchitis,	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	4	2	3	2	14	6
Cancer of Breast,	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	10

Table XI.—(Continued.)

CAUSES OF DEATH	JAN		FEB		MAR		APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUG		SEPT		OCT		NOV		DEC		TOTAL	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Diseases, Unknown,	6	1	6	2	5	4	5	4	2	3	2	1	3	4	1	3	1	....	2	1	....	3	5	4	38	30
Dropsy,	6	2	2	1	7	9	4	1	2	1	1	8	5	2	1	4	4	4	5	2	4	2	4	5	45	41
Do in Head,	6	2	7	5	7	5	6	4	4	2	2	8	4	5	8	7	12	5	6	4	5	6	4	4	71	57
Dysentery,	2	....	....	....	3	1	1	....	3	1	....	1	1	3	13	9	17	11	7	8	....	....	....	....	3	47
Epilepsy,	1	....	1	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	2
Erysipelas,	2	1	....	....	2	1	2	....	3	1	2	1	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	2	1	1	1	14	7
Exhaustion, .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	1	1
Fever, Bilious,	1	....	....	....	1	1	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	1	....	5	3
Do Intermittent, .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Do Scarle*,	56	54	34	38	20	24	22	20	10	10	8	13	16	14	13	9	5	6	7	4	10	5	....	5	201	202
Do Ship, .....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	2
Do Typhoid, .....	....	2	3	....	....	3	3	3	2	1	3	1	6	4	5	5	11	4	5	6	5	4	4	3	47	33
Do Yellow, .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....
Do not specified, .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Gangrene, .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	3	1
Gastritis,	2	....	....	....	....	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	4
(Gravel),	1	1	....	....	1	....	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	5	1

Heart, Diseases of.....	7	6	5	4	4	3	6	9	2	3	3	5	3	3	2	1	5	3	2	7	4	4	4	50
Hemorrhage of Lungs,				1			1	2	2		2				1		1	1					8	1
Do Blood Vessel,																				1				1
Do Stomach,	1																						1	....
Do Bowels,									1		1													2
Do Uterus,																1								1
Do not specified,				1																				1
Hernia,															1				1				1	1
Hip, Disease of							1																2	....
Homicide,	1			1	1			1					1				1		4	1			9	2
Hooping Cough,				2		1	3	1		3		2	1	1	2	3	2	8	6	4	1	7	6	21
Influenza,	1		1				1			1							1						2	3
Insanity,															1						1		1	1
Intemperance,	1	1		1	3	1	1	1	3				3	3	3		2	1	1	2		2	1	21
Intestines, Perforation of																	1						1	....
Do Ulcers of																			1				1	....
Jaundice,				1												1							1	1
Kidneys, Disease of	1		1			1			1							1				1		2		6
Laryngitis,	1																						1	....
Liver, Diseases of.....	1	1		1		3	2	1	2	3							1	1		2	1	3		8
Lungs, Congestion of	1		4	1	3	1		2	1	1	1					1				3	2		14	8
Do Disease of																					1			1
Do Gangrene of	1	1	1														1				1	1		4

Table XI.—(Continued.)

[illegible]

Accidents.—The deaths from causes thus designated, amount to 142,—3.58 per cent. of the entire mortality,—39 less than the number thus recorded in last Report. Among these are placed two cases of sun-stroke, and two in which death resulted from drinking cold water. Of the whole number, 62 were foreign born, and 35 of foreign parentage. If personal habits, modes of living, employments, &c., will account for the great excess of mortality from natural causes among foreigners and their children, over the mortality among the native-born population, how shall a like inequality in the deaths from *accidental* causes be accounted for? Are not native-born persons as much exposed to casualties as foreigners?

Apoplexy.—The number of instances thus reported this year is 38,—an increase of three over the previous year's result. Of these, 22 were of native-born persons,—the precise number that died from this cause in 1856.

Bowels, Diseases of.—The deaths from causes thus designated, amount to 48,—a decrease of 13 from last year's number. The suspicion with which these cases should be regarded has been more than once hinted at. If it were not a serious subject, the singular reports that are made concerning some of these cases would be anything but serious. Instances like the following are not rare. One reports a death after the following fashion: The deceased took a pain in the head, which travelled down to his feet, branched off into the "rheumatiz" in the shoulders, contracted into a carbuncle on the back, and culminated into an indescribable something in the hypogastric region, which could be expressed in no other way than by "Disease of Bowels." Another *guesses* the cause of death to be dysentery, and

fails to describe a single characteristic of that disease. A third speaks of a distress in the bowels, but can specify nothing but a cough and hard work. All these items, with many others of an equally unintelligible and disjointed character, are the materials from which some of these cases have received their designations.

Brain, Diseases of.—Like the preceding class of diseases, deaths from “diseases of the brain” are to be looked on with suspicion, though not to the same extent. The deaths from diseases of this character, during the year 1857, amount to 108,—a decrease of 22 from last year’s number, making 2.72 per cent. of all the deaths. These cases were equally divided between foreigners and their children, and natives.

Bronchitis.—Twenty deaths from this cause are reported for the present year. Last year there were but seven. It is doubtful if some of them should not have been designated as Inflammation of the Lungs. Most of them were of children.

Cancer.—Thirty-four deaths from this cause are recorded in this year’s table,—an increase of 18 over the number of the previous year. Most of these deaths were, as usual, of females, only 4 being of males. It will be seen that the location of the disease in each instance, (with one exception,) has been specified.

Chicken Pox.—One death thus designated, (that of an infant,) is reported in the month of December.

Cholera Infantum.—The deaths thus classed number 277,—an increase of 70 over the number reported the previous year,—making nearly 7 per cent. of all the deaths. Of the whole number, children of foreign parentage comprise nearly 77 per cent. All but 5 of

these deaths occurred in the months of July, August, and September. There is much uncertainty in regard to these cases. A very large portion of the deceased were unattended by physicians, and of course the returns of such came from questionable sources.

Chorea, (St. Vitus's Dance.)—One death from this cause is reported in November. The subject was a child seven years of age.

Consumption.—The mortality from this disease amounts this year to 764,—4 more than were recorded the previous year,—making 19.30 per cent. of all the deaths. The mortality from this cause is in the ratio of one death to each 222.51 of the population. It will be observed by the annexed table, that of those dying from this formidable malady, foreigners comprise 69.24 per cent,—the amount that the same class contributed in 1855, but 5 per cent. above that of the year 1856.

	Males	Females	Total
Born in the United States,	106	129	235
Do Ireland,	196	212	408
Do England and Wales,	3	9	12
Do British Provinces,	17	20	37
Do Scotland,	7	3	10
Do Germany and Northern Europe, .	14	4	18
Do Other Foreign Places,	7	2	9
Children of Foreign Parents,	15	20	35
	365	399	764

Of those who died from Consumption, no less than 408, or 53.40 per cent., were born in Ireland.

Wards.	Deaths.	Wards.	Deaths.	Public Institutions.	Deaths.
1	89	7	105	Massachusetts Hospital, ...	37
2	46	8	63	Rainsford Island Hospital, .	32
3	70	9	27	Deer Island,	10
4	24	10	61	Lunatic Asylum, S. B.	3
5	27	11	46	House of Correction,	3
6	41	12	80		

The above table gives the number of deaths from Consumption in each ward, and in the several public institutions. It will be seen that nearly one-seventh of the deaths from this disease occurred in ward 7; about one-eighth in ward 1; and in the six wards, 7, 1, 12, 3, 8 and 10, 61.24 per cent. of all the deaths occurred. There were 85 deaths in the public institutions.

The subjoined statement exhibits the occupations of the males who died from Consumption, with the exception of 46, who were mostly boys, between the ages of 8 and 15 years.

Laborers	127	Bank Tellers	1
Tailors	24	Boarding-house Keepers	1
Mariners	20	Sailmakers	1
Carpenters	16	Ship Keepers	1
Clerks	16	Deputy Chief of Police	1
Traders	10	Varnishers	1
Blacksmiths	8	Bakers	1
Painters	8	Whitesmiths	1
Shoemakers	5	Masons	1
Machinists	5	Bar Keepers	1
Gentlemen	4	Lapidary	1
Waiters	4	Slaters	1
Stonecutters	3	Wire Workers	1
Teamsters	3	Authors	1
Plumbers	3	Glaziers	1
Merchants	3	Stewards	1
Brokers	3	Lithographers	1
Farmers, &c.	3	Goldbeaters	1
Wheelwrights	2	Carvers	1
Coppersmiths	2	Coopers	1
Riggers	2	Lawyers	1
Harness makers	2	Tinsmiths	1
Printers	2	Whip makers	1
Cabinet makers	2	Coachmen	1
Clergymen	2	Cork Fender makers	1
Restorators	2	Musicians	1
Dentists	1	Hatters	1
Provision Dealers	1	Piano-Forte Tuners	1
Stencil Cutters	1	Hostlers	1
Editors	1	Auctioneers	1
Melters	1	Occupations not given	46
Copperplate Printers	1		
Ship Carpenters	1		
Students	1		
			365

It will be seen from the above, that of the whole number of males who died from Consumption, Laborers comprise 127, or 34.79 per cent. ; Tailors, 6.57 per cent.; Mariners, 5.48 per cent.; Carpenters and Clerks, each 4.38 per cent. ; Traders, 2.74 per cent. ; and Blacksmiths and Painters, each, 2.19 per cent. The foregoing eight enumerated classes number 229, making nearly 62.74

per cent. of the whole ; while the remaining 65 employments, comprising 136 persons, make 37.26 per cent.

Childbirth.—Forty-two deaths from diseases incident to childbirth are reported, 6 more than occurred in 1856. Of the whole number, 27 were of foreign females. A similar disparity between native and foreign-born females occurs from year to year. It may be, that *Peritonitis* would have been the proper term to affix to some of these cases ; but as it was not possible to ascertain the characteristics of these, the two designations appear as reported.

Convulsions.—The deaths thus classed, numbering 119, (ten more than were recorded last year,) make 3 per cent. of the entire mortality. Of the whole number, children of foreign parents make nearly 85 per cent. These cases also require scrutiny. Some of them were returned as “fits,”—a term not deficient in comprehensiveness, certainly, however it may be lacking in other respects. From the returns made, it was not possible to designate these cases differently, at least with any probability of being more correct.

Croup.—Of this much dreaded disease, 103 cases occurred,—17 less than the previous year's number,—of which children of foreign parents make 78.64 per cent.,—the same proportion, within a slight fraction, that occurred the year before. These cases make 2.60 per cent. of the whole mortality.

Debility.—Fifty-six deaths—one more than was recorded both last year and the year before—are reported this year. This is also an equivocal term, used, like the mantle of charity, to cover a multitude of sins. Some of them were returned as “old age ;” but as the

subjects were very far from being old, and as the only indications of disease that were apparent were a general wasting away, or physical prostration, this term seemed to be as fit as any that could be employed. The deaths thus classed make 1.41 per cent. of the entire mortality.

Dysentery and *Diarrhœa*.—Together, make 2.62 per cent. of the mortality. Of the whole number,—84 of the first, and 20 of the latter,—foreigners and their children comprise 73.

Dropsy.—Eighty-six cases, against 79 of the previous year, are set down in this year's table. Although most of these cases were ascertained to be what is usually indicated by this term, there were some attended by characteristics which rendered it exceedingly difficult to class them.

Dropsy in Head.—The deaths from *Hydrocephalus* number 128,—3.23 per cent. of the whole mortality,—34 less than the number reported the previous year. Of the entire amount, children of foreign parentage comprise 72.73 per cent. Undoubtedly this disease is a common one; but from the considerations before alluded to, it is doubtful whether all these cases are properly classed.

Erysipelas.—The number of deaths from this disease is 21,—5 less than the number reported last year. They are very evenly divided among foreigners and native-born.

Heart, Diseases of.—Of the 102 cases thus reported, 55 were of native-born persons, and 47 of foreigners and their children. Some of them were of very young children, and undoubtedly were susceptible of a more

definite designation. As most of these deaths were sudden in their character, the causes of them, in many instances, were purely conjectural. They make 2.57 per cent. of the entire mortality.

Homicides.—Eleven deaths from violence occurred during the year, the same number that were reported in 1856.

Hooping Cough.—The mortality from Hooping Cough amounts to 57,—the precise number tabulated last year; 43 were children of foreign parentage, making more than 75 per cent. of the entire mortality from this cause.

Infantile Diseases.—The mortality from causes thus designated always appears large in the Registrar's Report. The number thus classed in the foregoing table is 237,—an increase of 15 over last year's amount, and making nearly 6 per cent. of all the deaths. Of the total number, children of foreign parentage comprise nearly 79 per cent. All of these cases were of children under one month old. The most of them died before they were a week old. For reasons before given, no more definite specification of the cause of death could be made.

Intemperance.—Thirty cases thus specified are recorded,—one less than were reported last year. Seven of these only were of native-born persons.

Lungs, Diseases of.—Deaths from Diseases of the Lungs number 234,—5.91 per cent. of all the deaths. Of the whole number, foreigners and their children comprise over 66 per cent. The deaths thus classed made 6.13 per cent. of the mortality last year. A large proportion of the deaths was of young children.

Liver, Diseases of.—There were but 25 deaths thus reported during the year,—a falling off of 7 deaths from last year's record. Fifteen of these cases were of foreign-born persons.

Marasmus.—Seventy-one instances are reported this year,—an increase of 18 over the number of last year. With the exception of a very few of these cases, where physicians endorsed the returns, little reliance can be placed on their accuracy. They were principally of children under five years of age, many of whom were reported as having died of Consumption.

Measles.—There were but six cases of Measles during the year, against 77 the previous year. A similar falling off occurs in the case of *Small Pox*, of which only *two* instances are reported,—one at Deer Island, (of a sailor,) and one of a child in the city. The number of cases recorded last year was 78. The decline of this disease is remarkable, and indicates both successful treatment and a general participation in the benefits of vaccination.

Old Age.—There were 61 instances thus recorded during the year—14 males and 47 females. Of the males, 9 were American born, and of the females, 31 were of the same nativity. The average age of the males was 82 years; of the females 85 years.

Paralysis.—The deaths from Paralysis amount to 38,—one less than last year's record,—24 of which were of native-born persons.

Pleurisy.—Forty-two cases, (33 of which were of foreigners,) are reported,—a decrease of 11 from the mortality of last year.

Scarlet Fever.—Of this disease, which has prevailed

as an epidemic since March, 1856, 403 deaths occurred in 1857,—an increase of 41 over the number recorded in 1856. The mortality from this cause makes more than 10 per cent. of all the deaths; the previous year it made but 8.51 per cent. In January, 1857, 110 deaths occurred from this cause, (74.44 per cent. of which was of children of foreign parentage,) since which time the disease has been gradually diminishing. It may be a matter of interest to designate in tabular form the localities where the disease prevailed.

Wards.	Deaths.	Wards.	Deaths.	Wards.	Deaths.
1	40	5	12	9	12
2	58	6	19	10	30
3	22	7	52	11	42
4	9	8	35	12	72

It will be seen that the disease was more fatal in ward 12 than in any other ward,—17.86 per cent. of the deaths from that cause having occurred there. Ward 2 furnishes the next largest number,—14.39 per cent. of the deaths taking place there. In wards 4, 5, and 6, there were but 9, 12, and 19 deaths, respectively. In the three southern wards, 35.73 per cent. of all the deaths from Scarlatina occurred. The ages of those dying from this disease may be seen by the annexed statement:

Under 1 year,	49	3 to 5 years, ...	86	15 to 20 years, ...	2
1 to 2 do	95	5 to 10 do ...	69	20 to 30 do ...	1
2 to 3 do	87	10 to 15 do ...	13	30 to 40 do ...	1

It will be noticed, that 57.31 per cent. of the mortality occurred among children under 3 years of age. There was reported one death of a person between 20 and 30, and one between 30 and 40.

Rheumatism.—The number of deaths from this cause amounts to 16,—the same number that was reported the previous year.

Teething.—There were 134 deaths thus reported during the year, no less than 110 of which were of children of foreign parentage. These deaths make 3.38 per cent. of the whole mortality. Perhaps a great portion of the deaths would have been more accurately designated had they been classed with those dying from *Cholera Infantum*.

Tumors.—There were 14 deaths from Tumors during the year,—two less than occurred in 1856. The locality in each case is specified.

Typhoid Fever.—Eighty-three cases of this disease are reported, and three of *Ship Fever*. The latter occurred at Deer Island. These diseases make 2.17 per cent. of the mortality, and are almost equally divided between foreigners and persons of native birth.

Unknown Diseases.—There are 68 instances thus designated,—88 less than were reported last year. The deaths thus classed make but 1.71 per cent. of the entire mortality. When it is considered that the great bulk of these deaths is of children under two months of age, many of whom had never received medical treatment, the proportion cannot be considered excessive. Children of foreign parents make over 72 per cent. of the whole number.

The general aspect of the year's mortality is a favor-

able one. In estimating the reliability of the reported causes of death, perhaps not more than 75 per cent. of the whole is of a character to justify any degree of confidence, leaving the remainder utterly worthless for statistical purposes. In a city like Boston, and with a registration law defective in some respects, perhaps such a result is to be looked for; but every year's experience serves to perfect what is good in the law, and to render more easy a change in due time.

The following table, containing over 91 per cent. of the entire mortality, shows the birthplaces and parentage of 3,617 of the deceased. Of the amount tabulated, it will be seen that foreigners and their children make more than 69 per cent.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Number	Native	Foreign	Foreign Percentage
Accidents,	142	45	62	35
Apoplexy,	38	22	15	1
Bowels, Diseases of	48	17	15	16
Brain, Diseases of	108	54	18	36
Consumption,	764	235	494	35
Convulsions,	119	19	2	98
Cholera Infantum,	277	68	1	213
Croup,	103	22	3	78
Debility,	56	19	37	.....
Diarrhoea,	20	7	12	1
Dysentery,	84	24	30	30
Dropsy,	86	38	46	2
Do in Head,	128	35	4	89
Diseases, Infantile,	237	50	.....	187
Do Puerperal,	42	15	27	.....
Erysipelas,	21	10	8	3
Fever, Typhoid,	83	40	38	5
Do Ship,	3	1	2	.....
Do Scarlet,	403	104	14	285
Heart, Diseases of	102	55	41	6
Hooping Cough,	57	14	2	41
Intemperance,	30	7	23	.....
Liver, Diseases of	25	10	14	1
Lungs, Disease of	234	79	51	104
Marasmus,	71	27	3	41
Measles,	6	1	.....	5
Paralysis,	38	24	14	.....
Pleurisy,	42	6	33	3
Scrofula,	21	10	4	7
Teething,	134	23	1	110
Thrush,	20	13	1	6
Worms,	7	.....	.....	7
Unknown,	68	13	6	49
	3617	1102	1021	1494

XIII. *Showing the DEATHS in Boston, in 1857, from other than natural causes.*

ACCIDENTS, &c.	M	F	ACCIDENTS, &c.	M	F
Drowned,	39	1	Fell from a ship's mast,	1	...
Killed on railroads,	16	1	Fell from a wagon,	1	...
Do by kick of a horse,	2	...	Fell through stairway,	1	...
Do do in a fight,	1	...	Fell through scuttles,	2	1
Do by explosion of mortar,	4	...	Fell into vessels' holds,	2	...
Do do cannon,	1	...	Fell down stairs,	1	...
Do by ramrod from do	1	...	Fell from a chair, .....	...	1
Do by fall of guano bags,	1	...	Sun-stroke,	2	...
Do do of a barrel,	1	...	Burned,	3	11
Do do of a building,	1	...	Exposure,	2	...
Do do of lumber,	1	...	Frozen,	1	...
Do do of a granite block, ..	1	...	Scalded,	5	1
Do do of earth,	1	...	Starved, .....	...	1
Crushed between vessel and wharf,	2	...	Strangled, .....	...	1
Do do railroad cars,	1	...	Suffocated,	3	1
Do by wagon,	1	...	SUICIDES		
Choked by piece of meat, .....	...	1	By jumping from window. ....	...	1
Empaled while "coasting,"	1	...	By opening a vein,	1	...
Jumped from window, .....	...	1	By arsenic,	1	1
Fracture of skull by a plank,	1	...	By laudanum, .....	...	2
Do do by falls,	2	...	By sulphuric acid,	1	...
Do of leg, do	1	...	By pistol shot,	1	...
Run over by vehicles,	7	...	By hanging,	3	...
By drinking cold water,	2	...	By cutting throat,	6	1
By pistol shot,	1	...	By drowning,	1	...
By phosphorus,	1	...	HOMICIDES		
By pain-killer, .....	...	1	Drowned, .....	...	2
Fell from platform to ship's deck, ..	2	...	Stabbed,	4	...
Fell from houses,	2	...	Strangled, .....	...	1
Fell from window,	1	...	Beaten,	2	...
Fell against a chair,	1	...	Shot,	2	...
Totals,				142	30

The subjoined table, embracing all whose occupations

were reported, and showing the aggregate and average ages of each class, will be found of some interest. The variation observable in the given particulars, from year to year, together with the great doubt concerning the correctness of the ages of the dominant class, of course greatly lessens the value of the statistics.

XIV. *Showing the Aggregate and Average Ages of 859 persons, who died in Boston, in 1857, whose professions and occupations were ascertained.*

No.	Occupations.	Ages ranging from	Aggregate Ages.	Average Ages.
297	Laborers,	17 to 85	13,242	44.58
79	Mariners,	19 to 73	3,021	38.24
42	Carpenters,	20 to 90	2,068	49.23
39	Clerks,	16 to 75	1,193	30.53
36	Tailors,	20 to 76	1,395	38.75
34	Traders,	19 to 92	1,584	46.58
23	Merchants,	24 to 89	1,438	62.52
20	Blacksmiths,	18 to 69	747	37.35
18	Shoemakers,	18 to 69	613	34.05
17	Gentlemen,	39 to 81	1,145	67.35
16	Painters,	18 to 50	564	35.25
12	Waiters,	17 to 59	379	31.58
10	Riggers, &c.	17 to 83	462	46.20
9	Farmers, &c.	21 to 65	374	41.55
9	Machinists,	22 to 74	320	35.55
9	Teamsters,	25 to 50	352	39.11
9	Printers,	21 to 72	446	49.55
8	Masons,	22 to 88	418	52.25
8	Stonecutters,	22 to 55	308	38.50
6	Publishers, &c.	28 to 63	263	48.83
5	Cabinet makers,	17 to 72	212	42.40
5	Coopers,	36 to 79	291	58.20
5	Engineers,	30 to 49	196	39.20
143	Various occupations,	17 to 80	5,960	41.63
859			36,991	43.06

Laborers.—Of this class, 297 are recorded, — 11 less than were reported last year, while the percentage is the same. They make 7.50 per cent. of all the deaths, and their average age is three years more than it was in 1856.

Mariners.—No less than 79 deaths of this class are recorded, or more than 9 per cent. of all comprised in the table, which is an increase of 29 over the number recorded in 1856. Their average duration of life, however, has increased more than 5 years.

Carpenters.—This class stands third on the list, and contributes the large number of 42 to the mortality, but appears with an increased average age five years higher than it had the previous year.

Clerks.—While 39 of this class, (ten more than were reported in 1856,) died the present year, their average age has increased nearly three years.

Tailors — Appear with a number eleven greater than that of the previous year. Their average age is nearly 39 years, — an increase of nearly three years.

Traders.—A decrease from 51, in 1856, to 34 the present year, is the tabulated result. There is an increase in the average age of a year and a half.

Merchants. — Twenty-three of this class died during the year, — six less than the preceding year's number, — with an average age increased from 53 years to 62.

Shoemakers.—The sons of Crispin have ever been considered an unhealthy class. The number that died this year is four less, while their average age is two years lower.

Gentlemen.—Three less of those thus designated have

died the past year than during the previous year, while six years have been added to their average age. The term that designates this class suggests ease, comfort and competence, — eminently promotive of longevity.

Painters.—An unhealthy class, who appear in the foregoing table with an addition of two to their number, and with a decrease of more than two years in their average age.

Waiters.—This class contributes 12 to the mortality, and, with the exception of the Clerks, has the lowest average age of any on the list.

Riggers, &c.—Ten Riggers and Sailmakers appear, with an average age of more than 46 years.

Farmers.—Nine Farmers—a class generally regarded as among the most healthy—appear with an average age reduced more than *seventeen* years!

Printers.—This proverbially unhealthy class contributes nine to the bill of mortality, but presents an average age of 49.55 years. Printers stand sixth on the list in regard to duration of life. The change that has occurred among this enlightened and intelligent class is striking, and highly interesting to those who were familiar with the craft in some parts of the country thirty years ago. The substitution of power presses, for the hand presses in use thirty years since, and the various changes which have occurred in the interior economy of the printing office, have contributed to lessen the compositor's confinement in the composing-room, redolent of antimony and lamp-black, and of course to prolong his life.

On the whole, the foregoing list makes a fair exhibition. Three classes only, — Farmers, Shoemakers and

Stone-cutters, — appear with a reduced average age. The average age of the entire list is 43 years; the previous year it was 40.55.

XV. *Showing the Births, Deaths, Intentions of Marriage entered, and Marriages recorded, each Month of the Year 1857.*

MONTHS	Births	Deaths	Intentions	Marriages
January,	465	366	234	222
February,	456	312	211	201
March,	497	298	127	113
April,	437	306	283	172
May,	436	269	272	254
June,	441	272	217	208
July,	507	303	176	163
August,	536	422	203	176
September,	525	435	232	228
October,	527	352	280	230
November,	504	322	262	268
December,	550	301	186	150
	5881	3958	2683	2385

INTERMENTS.

The places of interment of those who died in Boston during the year 1857, are as follows :

Cemeteries in City Proper,	221
Do East Boston,	448
Do South Boston,	234
Rainsford Island,	79
Deer Island,	29
Elsewhere in the State,	348
Out of the State,	142
Neighboring Cemeteries,	2457
	<hr/>
	3958

It will be seen that but 5.58 per cent. of those who died during the year were interred in the city proper; while 17.23 per cent. were buried in the cemeteries at East and South Boston; 2.72 per cent. at Rainsford and Deer Islands; nearly 9 per cent. in other places in the State; more than 62 per cent. in neighboring cemeteries; while more than 3 per cent. went beyond the limits of the State.

There were brought into the city for interment in the various cemeteries, the bodies of 75 persons who had died elsewhere. During the same period, there were removed from tombs in the city 204 bodies, for re-interment in other places.

The various burial grounds in the city, together with the tombs, are in good condition. Some of the former have been adorned with flowers and shrubbery, so as to become favorite places of resort with large numbers. The burial ground on the Neck, the Granary and King's

Chapel grounds, and that on Copp's Hill, are opened at certain hours on the Sabbath, and are visited by well-behaved persons of both sexes.

The undertakers, under whose supervision all interments in the city must take place, are discreet and attentive in the performance of their duties, and, so far as is known, give general satisfaction.

Respectfully submitted,

N. A. APOLLONIO.

City Registrar's Office, }
Jan. 30, 1858. }

REPORT

BY THE

CITY REGISTRAR,

OF THE

Births, Marriages, and Deaths,

IN THE

CITY OF BOSTON,

FOR THE YEAR

1858.



BOSTON:

GEO. C. RAND & AVERY, CITY PRINTERS.

No. 3, CORNHILL.

1859.

City Document.— No. 13.

R E P O R T

BY THE

CITY REGISTRAR,

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IN THE

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FOR THE YEAR

1858.



BOSTON:

GEO. C. RAND & AVERY, CITY PRINTERS,

No. 3, CORNHILL.

1859.

I. *Births, 1858. NATIVITY of Parents.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Both Parents born in United States,	703	708	1411
Do Do England,	53	31	84
Do Do Ireland,	1328	1237	2615
Do Do Scotland,	16	12	28
Do Do Germany,	127	104	231
Do Do other Countries, (unmixed,)*	29	35	64
Do Do Do (mixed,)+	96	86	182
Do Do British American Provinces,	46	66	112
Father born in U. States, Mother in B. A. Provinces,	41	35	76
Do Do Do Ireland,	69	64	133
Do Do Do other Countries,	27	30	57
Do Do Do Unknown Do	7	4	11
Do B. A. Provinces, Mother in U. States,	29	26	55
Do Do Do Foreign Countries,	37	43	80
Do Ireland, Do Do	24	22	46
Do Do Do U. States,	39	37	76
Do Foreign Countries, Do Do	43	35	78
Do Do Do Ireland,	47	40	87
Do Do Do B. A. Provinces,	34	41	75
Do Do Do Unknown,		2	2
Do Unknown, Do U. States,	10	10	20
Do Do Do Foreign,	14	12	26
Both Unknown,	20	28	48
Total,	2839	2758	5597

*This term denotes that both parents, in each case, were born in the *same* country.

† This, that the parents, in each instance, were not born in the *same* country.

It will be seen that the number of instances in which both parents were born in the United States is 1,411—53 less than the number recorded the preceding year, making nearly 25.21 per cent. of the whole number. The number of cases in which the fathers only were

native-born, is 277 — six less than last year's number. The instances in which the mothers only were born in the United States, amount to 229 — 31 less than the number recorded in 1857. In 1,917 cases, one or both parents were native-born. The number of instances in which both parents were foreign-born, is 3,604, or 64.39 per cent. of the whole number, being 39.18 per cent. more than those in which both parents were native-born. The number of cases in which one or both parents were foreign-born, (enumerating those classed as "unknown" as foreign,) is 4,186 or 74.79 per cent. of the whole number. Of the whole number of foreign parents, the instances in which both parents were Irish amount to 2,615, making 46.72 per cent. of the entire number, and 62.47 per cent. of all the cases in which one or both parents were foreign-born.

The following table will show the proportion of the births and the deaths in each ward.

Wards.	Per cent. of Births.	Per cent. of Deaths.	Wards.	Per cent. of Births.	Per cent. of Deaths.
1	11.75	12.94	7	10.52	12.55
2	12.93	8.64	8	7.16	8.17
3	9.48	8.04	9	5.18	4.45
4	2.60	3.12	10	7.52	6.27
5	5.21	4.34	11	10.22	7.91
6	3.66	4.50	12	13.72	12.05

It will be seen, that while 12.94 per cent. of the entire mortality occurred in the first ward, only 11.75 per cent. of the births were there. A similar excess in the mortality occurred in that ward the year before.

Wards 4, 6, 7 and 8 exhibit a like result. The difference between the births and the mortality of Ward 7, is more than 2 per cent. Ward 2, as usual, presents the most favorable record. While its percentage of deaths amounts to 8.64 per cent. of the whole mortality, its births make 12.93 per cent. of the entire number—a difference in favor of the births over the deaths of 4.29 per cent. The excess of the previous year was 4.28 per cent.—almost identical with that of the present. There were upwards of thirty births in the Rainsford Island Hospital, which are placed to the credit of Ward 2; but these will not make any essential variation in the result. Ward 11 has a preponderance of births of 2.31 per cent., and Ward 12, of 1.67 per cent.

The following table shows the number of births in each month.

In January	531	In July	464
February.....	443	August.....	504
March	520	September	489
April.....	474	October	459
May	402	November	463
June	400	December	448

The largest number of births in any one month took place in January, the number being 531—66 more than occurred in the corresponding month of the preceding year; and the least number in any one month, occurred in June. In the months of January, March, and August, 27.78 per cent. of the births occurred. The deaths during those months make 27.70 per cent. of the whole number.

The number of twin births recorded is 39 — nine less than the number recorded in 1857. The parentage of these interesting cases may be seen in the following table.

	Both Male.	Both Female.	Male and Female.
Both parents born in U. States,	2	1	4
Do Do England,	1	1	1
Do Do Ireland,	7	9	5
Do Do Scotland,			1
Do Do Germany,	1		1
Father born in U. States, Mother in Ireland,	1		
Do England, Do Do		1	
Do Do Do U. States,	1		
Do Italy, Do Ireland,	1		
Both parents unknown,			1
	14	12	13

In only eight instances were one or both parents born in the United States. In the other 31, twenty-four were cases in which one or both parties were Irish.

There were but 24 colored births — ten less than the number reported the preceding year. One of these was a twin birth.

MARRIAGES.

The number of marriages recorded during the year is 2,155 — a decrease of 230 from the number recorded the year before, and 378 less than were reported in 1850. In 1854, there were 3,128 marriages — nearly one thousand more than were returned during the past

year. The following table will show the birthplaces of the couples married. The birthplaces of the males are given in the horizontal columns, and those of the females in the perpendicular ones.

II. MARRIAGES. NATIVITY of the couples married.

BIRTHPLACES OF THE GROOMS.		BIRTHPLACES OF THE BRIDES.														Totals.
Boston.	Mass.	Maine.	New Hampshire.	Vermont.	R. Island.	Connecticut.	Other States.	England.	Ireland.	Scotland.	British Provinces.	Germany and N. Europe.	Other Places.	Unknown.	Totals.	
Boston,	148	28	20	8	3	2	.....	5	5	18	.....	9	1	.....	247
Massachusetts, (except Boston),	72	105	42	14	7	1	1	8	5	7	.....	19	.....	2	287
Maine,	27	28	75	9	2	.....	1	4	6	10	2	19	.....	.....	183
New Hampshire,	17	13	15	24	2	.....	.....	2	3	3	.....	7	.....	.....	86
Vermont,	16	6	9	5	7	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	3	.....	.....	48
Rhode Island,	1	4	2	1	.....	2	.....	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Connecticut,	3	4	1	.....	1	.....	1	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	12
Other States,	23	5	9	1	.....	.....	9	5	13	2	16	1	2	.....	88
England and Wales,	2	3	3	.....	1	.....	.....	11	40	1	9	.....	.....	.....	70
Ireland,	27	10	.....	.....	.....	1	2	9	693	5	27	1	2	.....	777
Scotland,	1	1	3	.....	.....	.....	1	3	7	2	6	.....	.....	1	25
British Provinces,	11	6	10	1	2	1	.....	4	6	27	4	36	.....	.....	108
Germany, and North of Europe,	8	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2	28	1	6	97	2	150
Other Foreign Places,	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	1	7	8	2	5	6	20	56
Unknown, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	5	6
Totals,	362	215	191	63	24	10	4	89	63	857	19	162	108	28	2155	

Whatever may have been the cause of the reduction of ventures in the matrimonial lottery during the year just closed, it was not sufficiently formidable to prevent the natives of the Emerald Isle from embarking as largely in that species of speculation as usual. Indeed, by reference to the above table, it will be seen that there were 28 more Irish males married in 1858 than in 1857. And although the number of Irish females married the past year was 24 less than it was in the preceding year, they outnumber their countrymen by the round number of 80. "Hard times" generally act as a sedative in matrimonial affairs, on those who are slow to credit the dogma that two mouths can be filled just as cheaply as one; but that portion of our fellow citizens alluded to above do not scruple to avow that the doctrine is a true one, and the tabular statement above shows the extent of their faith.

Of the males married, 963 — or 44.68 per cent. of the whole number — were native-born. Of these, 796 — or 82.65 per cent. of the whole number of native males — married native females, leaving only 167, or about 17.35 per cent., who married foreign females.

Of the 1,192 foreign males married, 1,080 married foreign females. This number makes 90.60 per cent. of the foreign males.

The New England element is seen in the marriage of 725 couples, which make 33.64 per cent. of all the marriages. Boston contributes 11.46 per cent. of the grooms, and 16.79 per cent. of the brides. The number of American males who married foreign females is 167; and the number of foreign males who married American females, is 112.

III. MARRIAGES. *AGES of the couples married.*

AGES OF THE GROOMS.	AGES OF THE BRIDES.										Totals
	Under 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55	55 to 60	Unknown	
Under 21 years,.....	19	12	6	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	37
21 to 25 do	198	418	68	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	688
25 to 30 do	78	401	241	33	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	761
30 to 35 do	23	100	122	55	12	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	319
35 to 40 do	8	29	58	43	28	4	1	.....	.....	.....	171
40 to 45 do	1	10	14	21	24	7	2	.....	.....	.....	79
45 to 50 do .....	.....	5	6	9	10	8	6	.....	.....	.....	44
50 to 55 do .....	.....	1	3	1	4	5	2	2	.....	.....	18
55 to 60 do .....	.....	2	.....	2	2	4	2	4	.....	.....	16
60 to 65 do .....	.....	.....	.....	1	2	4	3	2	1	.....	13
65 to 70 do .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	2
70 to 75 do .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Unknown,.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	6
Totals,.....	332	978	517	169	91	84	16	10	2	6	2155

It will be seen that 761 of the males, or 35.31 per cent. of the whole number, married between the ages of 25 and 30. Although this number is 68 less than it was in the preceding year, the percentage is the same. Between the ages of 21 and 25 there were married 688 males, 118 less than in 1857, making 31.92 per cent. of the whole number. The preceding year this class made over 34 per cent.

The number of male minors married is 37 — five less than the number recorded the year before. One of these minors was only 16 years of age, who married a damsel of the same age, being the youngest couple

married. Four were 18 years of age; one of whom had the temerity to unite himself with a female of the motherly age of 31! two married brides of 17, and another one of 18. Seven male minors married the like number of minor females.

The predilections of some of the couples are both curious and interesting. The oldest male married was a veteran of 73, who succeeded in capturing a lady of 44. An offset to this is the case of an enterprising young man of 22, who bore off a lady of 37. Two men of 32 years married brides, each of whom was upwards of 50 years of age; and another concluded to try his chances with a miss of 16; while a lad of 20 joined himself to a lady of 28.

Of the females married, 978, or 45.38 per cent. of the whole number, were between the ages of 20 and 25; and nearly 24 per cent. were between 25 and 30. The former of these quinquennial periods is the favorite matrimonial period of the gentler sex, while the latter commends itself to the predilections of the rougher sex. There were 90 less females married under 20 years of age, than were married in 1857; and 76 less of females between 25 and 30. The number of females married under 18 years of age is 67. Seven of them were only 15 years of age, (two of whom married youths of 19;) 13 were 16 years of age, and 47 were 17 years of age. The whole number of instances in which one or both parties were minors, is 100, being 4.66 per cent. of all the marriages.

Fourteen per cent. of the males married females older than themselves.

IV. MARRIAGES. CONDITION (*Widowed or Single,*) and
RESIDENCES.

Grooms.	Brides. No. of times Married.				Residences.		
	First	Second	Unknown	Totals		Males	Females
1st Marriage,	1662	127	.....	1789	Boston,	1660	1740
2d do	237	100	.....	337	Other Places in Mass.,	383	333
3d do	16	8	.....	24	Other States,	112	82
Unknown,			5	5			
Totals,	1915	235	5	2155		2155	2155

The first marriages of males amount to 1,789 — 210 less than the number of the previous year — making 83 per cent. of the whole number. Neither of those who had been once and twice widowed have materially decreased.

The first marriages of females amount to 88.86 per cent. of the whole number, showing a slight increase over the number of the year before. There were but 235 widows married.

Of the males, 1,662 married maidens, and 127 united with widows; 237 widowers married maidens, and 100 married widows; and 16, who had twice been left disconsolate, appear to have languished very successfully for an equal number of maidens, and eight others, for a like number of widows. There were no fourth or fifth marriages.

There were 32 colored couples married, (a decrease

from the preceding year of two,) and nine instances in which the grooms were black and the brides white. The number of these last is the same this year that it was the last.

Among the couples married were two of deaf mutes.

It may be a matter of interest to some to learn the occupations of a portion of the grooms. The following list, embracing only 21 of the given occupations, it will be seen, makes 71.41 per cent. of the whole number.

Laborers441—20.46 per cent.	Blacksmiths31— 1.43 per cent.
Mariners208— 9.65 “	Machinists41— 1.90 “
Clerks124— 5.75 “	Stonecutters . . .25— 1.16 “
Carpenters . . .115— 5.33 “	Masons24— 1.11 “
Shoemakers . . .80— 3.71 “	Bakers24— 1.11 “
Traders70— 3.24 “	Printers21— .97 “
Teamsters . . .67— 3.10 “	Waiters21— .97 “
Merchants . . .61— 2.83 “	Physicians . . .16— .74 “
Farmers, &c. . .57— 2.64 “	Lawyers15— .69 “
Tailors48— 2.22 “	Clergymen . . .9— .41 “
Painters41— 1.90 “	

It will be seen that 44.91 per cent. of the marriages were of laborers, mariners, clerks, carpenters, and shoemakers.

MORTALITY OF THE YEAR.

The number of deaths during the past year is 3,840—118 less than that of the preceding year, and a decrease from the mortality of 1856 of 413. By a comparison of the mortality of 1858 with that of each of several preceding years, it will be seen that it was less in that year than in any year since 1850, when the number of deaths was 3,667, only 173 less than it was eight years later. The mortality is very equally divided

among the sexes, there having died 1,934 males, and 1,906 females — a difference of only 28.

The mortality of the past year cannot be regarded as an *infallible* test of the condition of the city — a comparison of the number of those that died with the number of those living at the same ages, with a consideration of other important facts, being necessary to determine this; but the general aspect of the result is so apparent, that we may reasonably regard it as an indication of more than ordinary good health.

Three causes may be assigned (singly or collectively) for the small mortality of the past year, viz., a diminished foreign immigration; a more efficient administration of sanitary laws; or, an actual decrease of the population. The first of these is a fact; the second is probable; and the third is conjectural. To what extent the population has fallen off, or whether it has done so at all, it is impossible to say, as the requisite data are lacking to determine the fact. A comparison of the number married with the number of births and deaths, together with the consideration of the facts growing out of the financial embarrassments of the preceding year, renders this supposition not at all improbable, however. Estimating the population, therefore, to be 170,000, the mortality in 1858 will allow one death to 44.27 of the same. But regarding it as 200,000 — the greatest number that any assign to it — the deaths will be in the ratio of 1 to 52. In either case the result may be regarded as indicative of a satisfactory sanitary condition, and entitles Boston to the credit of being one of the healthiest cities in the Union.

It may not be improper to state here, that, having

the advantage of experience, the utmost care has been observed during the past year in collecting the particulars required for registration. Much time and labor have been expended in pursuance of the object sought; and the result is submitted, with the conviction that it was hardly possible, by the present method of making returns, to procure a more satisfactory report. In former reports by the undersigned, the attempt has been made to set forth the value of a correct registration of births, marriages, and deaths, in the hope that the subject would receive the attention that its importance demands. Defects in the present method of making returns of deaths have been noticed, and instances specified in which matters of serious import had nearly escaped detection, through such defects. During the past year, another of those instances occurred, (similar to that noticed in the City Registrar's Report of 1856,) which is now undergoing legal investigation. Were respectable physicians' certificates, certifying to the cause of death, invariably required before bodies were interred, instead of adhering to the present inefficient and nearly valueless system, (so far as it relates to deaths,) it is fair to say that the frequency of such occurrences would be materially lessened. At all events, the change would immeasurably increase the chances of detection. It is to be hoped, that, should the Legislature fail to amend the law in this particular, the City Council will provide by Ordinance for the defect.

V. DEATHS in BOSTON, on each day of the year 1858, as reported by Funeral Undertakers and others.

DAY.	JANUARY.	FEBRUARY.	MARCH.	APRIL.	MAY.	JUNE.	JULY.	AUGUST.	SEPTEMBER.	OCTOBER.	NOVEMBER.	DECEMBER.
1	8	11	9	14	14	9	8	11	24	15	8	11
2	10	11	13	16	8	9	6	5	16	8	6	16
3	9	13	10	3	11	14	8	16	16	13	7	11
4	15	10	10	13	7	7	14	8	9	13	8	11
5	11	15	12	5	7	7	3	9	18	13	6	6
6	14	7	11	10	12	8	2	10	24	4	10	5
7	8	7	7	10	16	6	11	9	18	13	14	10
8	8	12	15	6	5	6	9	14	14	5	13	8
9	14	14	10	14	13	5	1	14	18	12	10	15
10	10	9	10	12	11	10	5	6	12	11	11	7
11	9	8	14	11	8	10	8	15	14	14	10	10
12	10	16	14	5	9	12	4	11	10	11	9	7
13	7	13	12	18	8	10	12	15	9	8	15	8
14	3	7	11	15	13	7	7	14	12	7	8	6
15	7	17	16	7	13	7	10	17	9	9	9	10
16	9	9	11	6	3	8	8	13	18	10	9	7
17	13	....	13	17	14	12	15	14	13	9	8	7
18	8	11	10	10	16	9	7	19	12	7	14	12
19	10	15	9	9	10	18	7	8	17	13	12	10
20	11	14	15	1	8	9	8	12	14	10	12	9
21	11	10	7	11	5	11	12	22	12	7	14	7
22	11	13	10	10	7	8	9	17	7	9	8	9
23	14	14	10	11	10	6	4	5	10	13	10	7
24	10	15	13	11	10	8	17	14	10	10	15	9
25	9	12	5	12	14	9	5	17	9	9	4	15
26	14	10	13	5	10	8	8	12	12	6	7	10
27	8	6	8	11	4	4	13	15	13	11	12	11
28	7	9	8	5	6	10	18	15	9	11	14	19
29	6	....	15	11	7	11	8	27	12	15	13	8
30	12	....	13	16	11	9	13	18	15	7	7	7
31	13	....	8	....	8	....	13	11	....	12	....	13
	309	308	342	305	298	267	273	413	406	315	303	301

VI. *Causes of Death*, 1858.

CAUSES OF DEATH	JAN		FEB		MAR		APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUG		SEPT		OCT		NOV		DEC		TOTAL		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Abscess,					1				1							1		1					1		3	2	
Accidents,	5	1	2		3	1	8	1	18	2	11		10	2	15	4	19		15	5	3	4	9	3	116	25	
Albuminuria,																	1								1		
Anæmia,			1		2						1	1			1	1				1					4	4	
Aneurism, (aortic,)																							1		1		
Apoplexy,	1		1		2		4	1	1		1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2		4	18	11	
Asthma,	1					1	1		1		1	1								1					1	1	6
Bladder, Inflammation of,																				1					1		
Bowels, Do	2	4	1	1		3	2	2	1	2		3	2	2		5		2	1		1		3	2	13	26	
Do Congestion of,					1												1								2		
Do Diseases of,	1	1					1						1		1		1					1			3	4	
Brain, Inflammation of,	3	3	1	1	4	2	2		1		1	1	4	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	24	17	
Do Congestion of,	4	6	3	3	1	4	4	1	1	1	2	1	1				2	1	1	1	1	1		1	18	21	
Do Diseases of,			1					1	1	1	1	1	2		1					1					6	3	
Do Softening of,			1																						1		
Bronchitis,	1		2						1		1		1								1		1		9		
Cancer of Breast,						1	1	1				1	1	1								1			5		

No epidemic has prevailed during the past year, and few diseases have attained more than ordinary prominence, or exhibited an unusually malignant type. On the contrary, there has been a marked diminution in the mortality from some diseases, the most prominent of which is Scarlatina.

Accidents. — The deaths thus classed number 141 — one less than the number recorded in 1857. The deaths from casualties in each year amount to about the same number. For the last nine years they have averaged about 140. The lowest number (113) in any one year occurring in 1849, and the highest (181) in 1856. Of those dying from these causes the past year, 57 were foreign-born, 51 native-born, and 33 the children of foreign parents. By reference to Table IX., the reader will ascertain the nature of the accident in each case.

Apoplexy. The number of deaths from this cause the past year was 29 — nine less than the number recorded in 1857. There is considerable uncertainty in regard to the correctness of the reports of some of these cases. Of some which were originally returned by undertakers as Apoplexy, inquiries resulted in showing that several were more likely to be Disease of the Heart, others of Congestion of Brain, and some of Consumption.

Bowels, Diseases of. — The deaths thus designated number 48, the precise number that were reported the preceding year. This designation, in the present Report, embraces those known as "Inflammation" and "Congestion," (numbering 41,) and six (including one reported as "Stoppage,") nameless, nondescript cases, whose seat was supposed to be of an intestinal character. The term "supposed" is used, because the cer-

tainty of even the *locality* of the disease is no more settled than the principle of "perpetual motion." The difficulty in being more precise in designating the cause of death in many of these cases, has been alluded to again and again. Perhaps nineteen persons out of every twenty would, without reflection, imagine that they had a pretty distinct idea of the cause of death in each of the cases designated as "Diseases of the Bowels;" and it is to be regretted that there are so few who desire a more specific term, and fewer still who appear to appreciate the necessity of having one. Undoubtedly, had the returns of these cases come from professional sources, the deaths of some of the females, at least, would have been ascribed to "Peritonitis." The deaths thus classed make 1.25 per cent. of the entire mortality.

Brain, Diseases of. — The diseases thus classed embrace 41 of "Inflammation," 39 of "Congestion," 1 of "Softening," and nine of that nameless class, which, like their intestinal kindred, were as likely to have had their seat of disease in the chest as in the head. The number reported the past year was 18 less than it was in 1857. These cases make 2.34 per cent. of the whole mortality.

Bronchitis. — There were nine cases thus reported — all males — mostly children. The year previous there were 20 deaths thus recorded.

Cancer. — Forty-one cases from this distressing cause are given this year — an increase of seven over the number in 1857, twenty-four being females. The local manifestation of the disease in each case is given in the table. These deaths make about 1.06 per cent. of the whole number.

There was one death each from "Cancrum Oris,"

"Cholera," "Inflammation of Bladder," "Catalepsy," "Chicken Pox," and one from "Cachexia."

Cholera Infantum.—The mortality thus designated amounts to 224—being nearly 6 per cent. of all the deaths. The year before there were 277 deaths from this cause. Of the whole number, children of foreign parents were in the proportion of nearly 3 to 1, or about 72.32 per cent. This fact is suggestive, and indicates pretty plainly the predisposing cause of the disease. The deaths were distributed over the city as follows:

Wards.	No.	Wards.	No.	Wards.	No.
1	26	5	11	9	13
2	18	6	4	10.....	11
3	23	7	26	11.....	17
4	1	8	18	12.....	56

It will be seen that over 58 per cent. of the deaths thus classed occurred in Wards 1, 3, 7, and 12. While 25 per cent. of the deaths from this cause occurred in the latter ward, only one death took place in Ward 4, and four in Ward 6.

Chorea (St. Vitus' Dance).—A death from this singular disease occurred in the month of January, in the Lunatic Asylum. The case was that of a man 65 years of age.

Consumption.—The deaths from this terrible scourge number the past year, 784—an increase over the mortality from the same cause in 1857, of 20. The mortality this year is a very large one, and makes no less than 20.41 per cent. of the whole number of deaths. Omitting the deaths from external causes, it will appear that this disease cut off no less than 21.38 per cent. of all who died from disease alone. The deaths from this malady in 1857 amounted to 19.30 per cent. of the

entire mortality. As usual, foreigners comprise the larger portion of the victims—nearly 68 per cent. of the whole number. The preceding year this class made 69.24 per cent. Singularly enough, 408 of those that died were born in Ireland—the same number recorded in 1857—making over 52 per cent. of all who died from this disease. The following table shows the birth-places of all who died from Consumption. It will be observed, that the increase of the mortality has been among those born in the United States.

	Males	Females	Total
Born in the United States,	110	143	253
Do Ireland,	202	206	408
Do England and Wales,	12	5	17
Do British American Provinces,	9	23	32
Do Scotland,	4	2	6
Do Germany and Northern Europe. . .	10	5	15
Do Other Foreign Places,	9	3	12
Children of Foreign Parents,	15	26	41
	371	413	784

It will be seen that 42 more females died than males. Of those born in the United States the females exceed the males by 33. Of those born in England, Scotland, Germany, and other foreign places, comprising 50 instances, the males predominate. The Irish males and females vary only four in number.

The following shows the number of deaths from Con-

sumption in each ward, and in the several public institutions. To those who are familiar with the various localities the exhibition will be interesting.

Wards.	Deaths.	Wards.	Deaths.	Public Institutions.	Deaths.
1	91	7	117	Massachusetts Hospital,....	22
2	64	8	67	Rainsford Island,	36
3	57	9	33	Deer Island,	8
4	20	10	54	Lunatic Asylum,	5
5	35	11	56	House of Correction,.....	1
6	39	12	78	Jail,	1

Nearly 15 per cent. of the deaths from this cause occurred in Ward 7; 11.60 per cent. in Ward 1, and nearly 10 per cent. in Ward 12. Over 53 per cent. of the deaths from this disease occurred in Wards 1, 2, 7, 8, and 12. The increase over the mortality of the previous year, has been in Wards 2, 3, 5, and 7. Seventy-three of these deaths took place in the public institutions—a decrease of 12 from the number of the previous year. In the Massachusetts General Hospital, the number of deaths from Consumption was 15 less the past year than it was in 1857.

The following table gives the occupations of all the males who died from Consumption. The exhibition is an interesting one, and, in the case of several of the classes, is significant.

Laborers	131	Musician	1
Tailors	16	Wheelwright	1
Shoemakers	14	Cabinet maker	1
Merchants	13	Painter	1
Clerks	13	Harness maker	1
Printers	13	Pattern maker	1
Mariners	12	Student	1
Traders	9	Bookbinder	1
Carpenters	9	Brass finisher	1
Machinists	6	Publisher	1
Teamsters	5	Nailmaker	1
Blacksmiths	4	Junk dealer	1
Tinsmiths	4	Turner	1
Masons	3	Dentist	1
Stonecutters	3	Silversmith	1
Hackmen	3	Gilder	1
Clergymen	3	Butcher	1
Hatters	2	Ship joiner	1
Pilots	2	Lawyer	1
Stevedores	2	Insurance agent	1
Moulders	2	Boiler maker	1
Sailmakers	2	Customs officer	1
Bakers	2	Engineer	1
Waiters	2	Porter	1
Boatmen	2	Broker	1
Ship carpenters	2	Engraver	1
Gardeners, &c.	2	Gas fitter	1
Coopers	2	Plumber	1
Goldbeaters	2	Physician	1
Saloon keeper	1	Hair dresser	1
Currier	1	Fresco painter	1
Inspector of beef	1	Slater	1
Paperhanger	1	Type caster	1
Coppersmith	1	Music printer	1
Ropemaker	1	Inn keeper	1
Gentleman	1	Not stated	42
Calker	1		
Founder	1		
			<hr/> 371

It will be seen, that of the whole number of males that died from Consumption, "Laborers" made 35.30 per cent. Of the 290 Laborers that died, 131, or 45.17

per cent. of the whole number, died from this cause. Tailors stand next in number, contributing 16 to the list. Shoemakers, Merchants, Clerks, and Printers, follow each with 13; Mariners come next with 12, succeeded by Traders and Carpenters with 9 each. These nine classes contributed nearly 62 per cent. of the victims. A large portion of those whose occupations are not given, — numbering 42, and making 11.32 per cent. of the whole number, — were boys between the ages of 5 and 15.

Convulsions. — The deaths from causes thus recorded amount to 119, — the same number that was reported the previous year, — making over 3 per cent. of all the deaths. It would be gratifying if it could be said of the term here used, that it had any express signification in these particular instances. Every possible effort and means have been employed to verify the correctness of the returns of these cases, but with very indifferent success. In many of them, there were good grounds for believing that convulsions were caused by teething; in others, by the recession of eruptive diseases; some were perhaps epileptic, and others, hysteric; and some may have been apoplexy or delirium tremens. With this wide margin for speculation, it would not be wise to base any calculation on the exhibited result. Over 84 per cent. of the mortality thus designated was of children of foreign parents.

Croup. — This malady destroyed the past year 102 children, — one less than the number of the preceding year, — making 2.65 per cent. of all that died. Of the whole number of deaths from Croup, 75.49 per cent. was of children of foreign parents. In the month of

January, there were 12 deaths, and in February, 24, from this disease. There was an equal number of males and females.

Debility.—Of the 38 instances thus recorded, all but ten were foreign-born. This term, like many others, is of that Indiarubber-like character, which can easily be made to embrace any indefinite number not otherwise provided for. Most of these cases were returned under a sincere conviction that the term expressed all that could or need be said concerning them. They were pretty evenly distributed throughout the year.

Diarrhoea and Dysentery.—There were 118 deaths from these two causes,—29 from the former, and 89 from the latter,—making 3 per cent. of all the deaths. Foreigners and their children make 58.47 per cent. of the whole number that died from these causes. Adding to these the deaths from “Cholera Morbus” and “Cholera Infantum,” we have a total of 351 deaths, making 9.14 per cent. of the whole mortality.

Dropsy.—Seventy-six cases were reported the past year. The entire family of the “Dropsies” is of very doubtful reputation. Thirty-two of those dying were native-born.

Dropsy of the Brain.—These instances number 176,—an increase of 48 over the number returned the previous year,—and make 4.58 per cent. of the whole mortality. Of these cases, children of foreign parents comprise nearly 80 per cent., an increase over last year of more than 7 per cent.

Epilepsy.—Eight cases occurred,—four males and four females,—two in January, three in March, one in October, and two in December.

Erysipelas. — Twenty-nine deaths from this cause are recorded, — an increase of eight over last year. Eleven of the victims were American-born.

Fever, Typhoid. — There are 73 instances thus recorded, — 45 males and 28 females. There were two cases reported as “Ship Fever.” These make 1.95 per cent. of the whole mortality.

——, *Bilious.* — Two cases were reported in August, — a male and a female. The first was that of a master of a vessel from Havana, and probably should have been reported as “Yellow Fever.”

——, *Intermittent.* — A single death from this cause occurred in March.

——, *Yellow.* — There were five deaths from this disease reported, — four males and one female. Three of them occurred in July, 1 in August, and 1 in September.

There were four cases reported simply as “Fevers,” — occurring in January, June, August, and October.

——, *Scarlet.* — The present report records 139 deaths from this disease, — 63 males and 76 females. In 1857 “Scarlatina” proved fatal in 403 instances, — making more than 10 per cent. of the whole mortality. In the month of January of that year, it was fatal in 110 cases, — the greatest number during any one month, — decreasing rapidly until August of that year, since which time it has prevailed but moderately, the deaths being distributed pretty evenly through each month. The deaths from “Scarlatina” during the year make nearly 3.62 per cent. of the whole number. Of those who died, children of foreign parents constituted 70.50 per cent. It will be seen by the following tabu-

lar statement, that the deaths were very unequally distributed among the wards.

Wards.	No.	Wards.	No.	Wards.	No.
1	21	5	4	9	8
2	9	6	6	10.....	6
3	14	7	20	11.....	8
4	11	8	9	12.....	23

It will be seen by the foregoing, that 56.11 per cent. of the mortality from this cause occurred in Wards 1, 3, 7, and 12.

Heart, Diseases of. — There were 96 instances thus reported, — 54 males and 42 females, — making 2.50 per cent. of the whole mortality. It is to be regretted that few of these returns came from professional sources. Of those who die each year from supposed heart affections, the major part are generally native-born. — These comprised more than half of the whole number during the past year.

Hemorrhage. — Twenty cases thus reported occurred, — 14 being males, and 6 females. In 17 instances the bleeding was from the lungs.

Hooping-Cough. — The number of deaths from this cause is 114, divided among the sexes in the proportion of nearly two to one, — there being 70 males, and only 44 females, — making 2.96 per cent. of the whole number. The deaths of children of foreign parents make 85 per cent. of the entire mortality from this cause.

Homicide. — There is a singular uniformity in the number of these cases from year to year. During the past year there were 10, — one less than in 1857.

Hydrophobia. — One death from this dreadful disease occurred in the Massachusetts General Hospital. The

subject was bitten in an adjoining town, and brought to Boston for treatment.

Intemperance. — Of the 46 instances thus designated, 40 were of foreign birth, — 27 were males, and 19 females. Those dying from what is distinctively known as “Delirium Tremens,” and from general dissoluteness of habits, are embraced in this category.

Liver, Diseases of. — Of the 31 persons who died from diseases of this organ, only seven were native-born. As about half of those who are sick, — seriously or otherwise, — imagine that this unlucky organ is, in their cases, diseased, — nearly gone in many instances, — perhaps the few deaths recorded is a matter of wonder.

Lungs, Diseases of. — Deaths from diseases thus classed, embracing “Inflammation,” “Congestion,” and two whose specific character could not be ascertained, amount to 234 — the precise number that was reported in 1857 — making 6.09 per cent. of the entire mortality. As usual, those of foreign birth, and their children, furnish a very large portion of the victims — 69.23 per cent.

Malformation. — Two instances were reported, a male and a female; the former of the anus, the latter, of the urethra.

Marasmus. — Under this term 99 deaths are recorded. With the exception of some half dozen instances returned by physicians, these cases are wholly valueless for statistical or scientific purposes. “Debility,” perhaps, would as properly have designated them as any other term.

Measles. — There were 80 deaths from this disease the past year — the previous year there were but six. The

proportion to the whole mortality is 2.08 per cent. Of the whole number of cases, only 14 were of children of American parentage.

Old Age. — Although this cannot properly be considered a disease, yet, when prematurely induced, it would seem entitled to be so regarded. There are 92 instances recorded — an increase of 31 over the previous year, making 2.39 per cent. of all the deaths. The females exceed the males in the proportion of nearly 3 to 1; there being 27 of the latter, and 65 of the former. Of those dying, 47 were native-born.

Paralysis. — Deaths thus reported number 48 — the same as the preceding year; 18 being males and 30 females. Thirty-one of the cases were of native-born persons.

Pleurisy. — Thirty-eight deaths from this cause were reported, only nine of which were of those born here.

Scrofula. — The deaths from this disease number 23 — 16 of which were of children of foreign parents.

Small Pox. — The almost entire cessation of this disease in Boston is a singular fact. Since August, 1856, there have been but five deaths, two in 1857, and three in 1858.

Puerperal Diseases. — Forty-three deaths occurred from diseases of this character — one more than were reported in the preceding year. Not a death took place from these causes during the month of November. Of the whole number, American females make only 18.

Teething. — The number of cases thus reported is 120, — 14 less than the preceding year, — making 3.12 per cent. of all the deaths. As usual the fatality was

principally among children of foreign parents, who contributed no less than 81.66 per cent. of the victims.

Unknown Diseases. — The number of instances in which there was no attempt to assign any cause of death is 44,— a reduction of 24 from the number of the preceding year. These cases make only 1.14 per cent. of the whole mortality.

It is a matter of regret, that the classification of so large a portion of the mortality should be of so doubtful a character. It may be divided into two classes; on one, no reliance can be placed, while the other may be entitled to more or less consideration. The latter class comprises "Inflammation of the Brain," "Inflammation of Bowels," "Dropsy," "Diseases of the Heart," and "Scrofula." The former class comprises those designated as "Diseases of the Brain," "Diseases of the Bowels," "Convulsions," "Infantile Diseases," "Dropsy of Brain," "Dysentery," "Debility," "Diseases of the Liver," "Marasmus," "Teething," and "Unknown." The deaths from causes embraced in these two classes number 1,597, and make 41.58 per cent. of the whole mortality, leaving but 58.35 per cent. that may be considered entitled to confidence. Adding to this the first named class, which makes 7.17 per cent., there remains but about 65 per cent. of the reported causes of death that is of any value for statistical purposes.

VII. BIRTHPLACES *and* PARENTAGE *of those who died in* 1858.

BIRTHPLACES.	M	F	P	BIRTHPLACES.	M	F	P
Boston,	1024	995	191	England and Wales, ...	28	29	183
Mass., except Boston, ...	155	191	345	Ireland,	433	428	2098
Maine,	58	55	141	Scotland,	7	6	40
New Hampshire,	54	57	141	British American Prov-			
Vermont,	16	13	38	inces,	33	45	97
Rhode Island,	9	10	12	Germany,	34	14	148
Connecticut,	3	8	17	Other Foreign Places, ..	21	12	64
Other American States, ..	37	33	74	Unknown,	22	10	301
	1356	1362	959		578	544	2881

It will be seen that 2,718, or 70.78 per cent. of those who died here the past year, were born in Boston; a little over 9 per cent. in other towns in the State, 7.37 in other parts of New England, and 1.82 in other States. Of the remaining 1,122 (including 32 whose birthplaces are unknown), those born in Ireland make 76.73 per cent.

It will be seen, by reference to the third column in each division of the above table, that in 1,260 instances only, (including those designated as unknown, nearly all of whom were American born,) were the fathers born in this country. Only 191 fathers were born in Boston, and 345 in other places in the State. The New England parentage makes 30.88 per cent. of the whole. The foreign parentage makes 67.18 per cent. of the whole, exclusive of those classed as unknown. The Irish parentage makes 80.13 per cent. of the foreign, and 54.63 per cent. of the whole, parentage.

VIII. DEATHS each Month. Sex and Age of the Deceased.

MONTHS.	Under 1 yr.		1 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		15 to 20		20 to 25		25 to 30		30 to 35		35 to 40		40 to 45	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
January,	39	25	35	37	6	9	5	3	7	3	12	12	11	10	6	12	8	4	5	2
February,	36	25	38	43	3	14	1	2	6	7	5	7	11	7	5	11	14	6	7	5
March,	43	35	46	33	10	10	2	1	3	3	10	12	11	12	5	7	9	3	8	7
April,	39	28	42	23	6	10	4	4	2	6	4	9	5	11	7	12	13	6	8	5
May,	28	29	27	29	9	8	4	2	2	7	5	7	10	9	8	10	12	9	15	6
June,	25	29	24	34	6	3	3	6	6	6	5	6	5	11	8	4	6	4	7	7
July,	33	20	29	28	5	2	1	2	9	3	10	3	8	8	3	3	12	4	7	10
August,	77	67	47	43	6	6	3	3	1	5	9	12	5	17	6	14	4	11	10	4
September,	67	73	47	38	6	5	1	4	2	7	10	9	6	9	7	12	14	8	4	5
October,	23	35	27	39	4	.....	2	2	5	3	10	10	8	8	12	13	11	12	6	8
November,	31	25	28	33	2	8	.....	3	7	5	11	9	4	10	8	10	4	10	14	11
December,	42	30	31	28	2	2	4	3	3	8	7	10	11	6	9	8	10	8	20	7
	438	422	421	413	65	77	30	35	53	63	98	106	95	118	89	116	117	85	111	77

Table VIII. — (Continued.)

MONTHS.	45 to 50		50 to 55		55 to 60		60 to 65		65 to 70		70 to 75		75 to 80		80 to 90		90 to 100	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
January,	11	4	3	7	2	1	6	3	4	3	3	4	4	1	.....	2	.....	.....
February,	5	7	4	6	.....	5	3	3	5	3	2	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
March,	7	8	4	4	4	2	4	.....	.....	.....	8	5	7	2	2	5	1	1
April,	6	3	4	6	3	2	6	3	6	3	4	3	2	4	.....	5	.....	.....
May,	8	1	2	6	5	1	4	5	3	5	2	3	1	8	3	5	.....	.....
June,	7	6	9	6	5	2	4	5	5	3	.....	2	2	4	.....	2	.....	.....
July,	5	3	6	6	5	3	4	5	4	4	2	3	.....	6	.....	4	.....	3
August,	8	3	9	4	5	6	3	4	6	3	1	3	1	2	2	3	.....	.....
September,	8	9	7	4	4	5	3	6	4	7	2	4	1	1	4	2	1	.....
October,	4	8	15	6	2	3	2	3	4	5	3	5	3	3	1	7	.....	2
November,	8	1	5	8	2	2	5	4	2	6	2	6	3	3	1	9	.....	3
December,	7	1	4	4	4	5	1	4	2	2	2	5	2	4	2	3	.....	.....
	84	54	72	67	41	37	45	52	51	44	31	46	26	38	15	47	2	9

The foregoing table exhibits the mortality during each quinquennial period from birth to the eightieth year, and during the two decades that follow. By dividing the whole period of one hundred years into four parts, some interesting facts will be seen. During the first period, from birth to the fifth year, comprising five years, 1,744 deaths occurred, making 45.41 per cent. of the whole mortality. During the second period, embracing fifteen years, only 323 deaths occurred, making 8.41 per cent. During the third period, comprising forty years, there were 1,367 deaths, making about 35.59 per cent. of the whole number. During the fourth period, also embracing forty years, there were only 406 deaths, or 10.57 per cent. of the whole number. The deaths during the first period of five years exceed those of the second, a period of fifteen, in the proportion of more than three to one, and nearly equal those of the last two combined.

Of 910 children who died under 1 year of age, the children of foreign parents number 663, or 72.85 per cent. of the whole number. Of these, 98, — 61 males and 37 females, — died on the day of their birth. The parentage of only 19 of them was of American origin. From the day of birth to the third month, there were 301 deaths, — 169 males and 132 females, — 102 of which were of children of American parents, and 199 of foreign parents. From the third month to the twelfth month, inclusive, there were 511 deaths, — 258 males and 253 females. Of this number, children of foreigners number 385.

The following is an analysis of the foregoing table, compared with a similar one of 1857.

	1858				1857			
		Being		Per cent.		Being		Per cent.
Under 1 year, ..	910	Being	.....	23.70	970	Being	.....	24.50
1 to 2 do ..	436	Do	.....	11.35	483	Do	.....	12.20
2 to 3 do ..	227	Do	.....	5.91	224	Do	.....	5.65
3 to 5 do ..	171	Do	.....	4.45	202	Do	.....	5.10
5 to 10 do ..	142	Do	.....	3.70	166	Do	.....	4.19
10 to 15 do ..	65	Do	.....	1.69	68	Do	.....	1.72
15 to 20 do ..	116	Do	.....	3.02	118	Do	.....	2.98
20 to 25 do ..	204	Do	.....	5.31	} 420	Do	10.61	Do
25 to 30 do ..	213	Do	.....	5.54				
30 to 35 do ..	205	Do	.....	5.33	} 401	Do	10.12	Do
35 to 40 do ..	202	Do	.....	5.26				
40 to 45 do ..	188	Do	.....	4.89	} 309	Do	7.80	Do
45 to 50 do ..	138	Do	.....	3.59				
50 to 55 do ..	139	Do	.....	3.62	} 214	Do	5.40	Do
55 to 60 do ..	78	Do	.....	2.03				
60 to 65 do ..	97	Do	.....	2.52	} 171	Do	4.31	Do
65 to 70 do ..	95	Do	.....	2.46				
70 to 75 do ..	77	Do	.....	2.00	} 144	Do	3.63	Do
75 to 80 do ..	64	Do	.....	1.66				
80 to 90 do ..	62	Do	.....	1.61	53	Do	1.33	Do
90 to 100 do ..	11	Do	.....	.28	15	Do	.37	Do
	3840			99.92 Per cent.	3958			99.91 Per cent.

It will be observed that the deaths under twenty years of age amount to 2,067, a decrease of 164 from the number that died during the same period in 1857, while there was an increase of 46 above that age.

IX. DEATHS, 1858. BIRTHPLACES of *Foreigners over 20 years of Age.*

BIRTHPLACE.	20 to 25		25 to 30		30 to 35		35 to 40		40 to 45		45 to 50		50 to 55		55 to 60		60 to 65		65 to 70		70 to 75		75 to 80		80 to 90		90 to 100		Totals.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
England,	3	...	5	3	3	3	3	3	...	2	...	3	4	1	...	1	2	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	1	1	19	23
Ireland,	37	41	51	53	42	60	62	47	57	51	52	31	38	29	15	15	23	19	17	14	9	16	5	12	6	17	1	3	418	408
Scotland,	2	1	...	1	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	7	6
Br. Am. Provinces,	7	8	3	8	2	8	4	3	3	2	1	...	...	2	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	21	34
Germany,	5	...	1	3	3	1	6	2	4	1	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	30	14	
Other Places,	2	2	2	2	4	2	...	1	5	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	8	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	8	
	53	55	57	72	57	74	76	56	72	54	60	33	44	38	17	18	30	25	24	15	10	17	8	13	6	19	2	4	516	493

The foregoing table comprises 1,009 deaths, which make 26.27 per cent. of the whole mortality. Those born in Ireland number 826, — 418 males and 408 females, — and make 81.86 per cent. of all the foreigners over 20 years of age.

WARDS.	1858		1857	
	Deaths.	Per cent.	Deaths.	Per cent.
1	497	12.94	542	13.69
2	332	8.64	328	8.28
3	309	8.04	348	8.79
4	120	3.12	143	3.61
5	167	4.34	166	4.19
6	173	4.52	196	4.95
7	482	12.55	458	11.57
8	314	8.17	284	7.17
9	171	4.45	196	4.95
10	241	6.27	242	6.11
11	304	7.91	331	8.36
12	463	12.05	438	11.06
Massachusetts Hospital,	121	3.15	128	3.23
Rainsford Island,	70	1.82	88	2.22
Deer Island,	48	1.25	36	.90
Institutions at South Boston,	27	.70	32	.80
Suffolk Jail,	1		2	
	3840	99.92	3958	99.88

It will be seen that in Wards 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, and 11, in the Massachusetts Hospital, in the State Hospital at Rainsford Island, and in the Institutions at South Boston, there was in each a decrease from the mortality of the preceding year. In Wards 2, 7, 8, 12, and at Deer Island, there was an increase, while in Wards 5 and 10

there was only a difference of one death in each instance. The greatest difference was in Ward 1, where the number was 45 less than that of the preceding year. The next largest decrease was in Ward 3, where there was a reduction of 39.

The number of stillborns during the year was 249, — a decrease of 29 from the previous year. The sexes of ten of them could not be ascertained. There can be no doubt that a large number are taken out of the city for interment, without being reported.

	Males.	Females.	Unknown.
In January,	12	10	1
February,	9	11	
March,	9	12	
April,	14	11	
May,	9	5	2
June,	18	6	2
July,	11	7	
August,	13	6	
September,	10	10	1
October,	9	10	
November,	9	6	3
December,	11	4	1
	134	98	10

CAUSES OF DEATH	Number	Native	Foreign	Foreign Percentage
Accidents,	141	51	57	33
Apoplexy,	29	17	11	1
Bowels, Diseases of	43	27	11	10
Brain, Diseases of	90	43	8	39
Cholera Infantum,	224	62	1	161
Consumption,	784	253	490	41
Convulsions,	119	19	5	95
Croup,	102	25	2	75
Debility,	34	10	24	
Diarrhœa,	29	12	11	6
Dysentery,	89	37	29	23
Dropsy,	76	32	38	6
Dropsy of Brain,	176	36	3	137
Erysipelas,	29	13	11	5
Fever, Typhoid,	73	38	23	12
Fever, Scarlet,	139	41	3	95
Heart, Diseases of	96	50	37	9
Hooping Cough,	114	17	1	96
Infantile Diseases,	205	37		168
Intemperance,	46	6	40	
Liver, Diseases of	31	7	23	1
Lungs, Diseases of	234	72	39	123
Marasmus,	99	42	1	56
Measles,	80	14	1	65
Old Age,	92	47	45	
Paralysis,	48	31	15	2
Pleurisy,	38	9	28	1
Puerperal Diseases,	43	18	24	1
Scrofula,	23	7	1	15
Teething,	120	22	4	94
Thrush,	28	17	1	10
Unknown,	44	8	9	27

The foregoing table gives some of the principal causes of death, together with the nativity and parentage of the deceased. The number of deaths embraced in the table is 3,523, of which 68.20 per cent. was of foreigners, or the children of foreigners.

X. DEATHS *from other than natural causes.*

ACCIDENTS.	M	F	ACCIDENTS.	M	F
Burned,	3	10	Jumped from windows,	1	1
Drowned,	33	1	Killed on railroads,	10	1
Scalded,	5	2	Killed by fall of buildings,	4	
Suffocated,	3	2	Killed by fall of logs,	4	
By discharge of gun,	1		Killed by fall of pile of lumber, ...	1	
“ Prussic acid,	1		Killed by fall of pile of wood, ...	1	
“ corrosive sublimate,	1		Killed by fall of bank of earth, ...	3	
“ chloroform,	1		Killed by fall of bundle of hay, ...	1	
“ tansy,	1		Killed by fall of an anchor,	1	
“ bed-bug poison,	1		Killed by fall of stone coping,	1	
“ sun-stroke,	3		Killed by fall of barrel of flour,		1
Fell down stairs,	5	1	HOMICIDES.		
Fell out of windows,	2		Beaten,	2	1
Fell from buildings,	3		Drowned,	1	
Fell from a pile of lumber,	1		Stabbed,	1	1
Fell from a ship,	1		By phosphorus,		1
Fell from ship's masts,	4		Thrown down stairs,	1	
Fell from vehicles,	5		Skull broken,	1	
Fell from a ladder,	1		Abortion,		1
Fell from a table,	1		Executed,	1	
Fell from a chair,	1		SUICIDES.		
Fell into ships' holds,	2		By arsenic,		1
Fell through scuttles,	2		By drowning,	2	3
Fell through hole in sidewalk,	1		By hanging,	4	
Fractures by falls,	3	3	By laudanum,	3	
By blow of handle of a rake,	1		By oil of vitriol,		1
Crushed by team,	1		By pistol shot,	2	
Crushed between two vessels,	1		By Prussic acid,	1	
Run over by vehicles,	7		By strychnine,		2

The following table may possess some interest, as showing the apparent average duration of life of members of various occupations.

XI. Aggregate and Average Ages of 839 persons who died in Boston in 1858, whose professions and occupations were ascertained.

No.	Occupations.	Ages ranging from	Aggregate Ages.	Average Ages.
290	Laborers,	16 to 96	12,416	42.81
52	Mariners,	16 to 68	1,913	36.78
43	Merchants,	25 to 83	2,132	49.58
42	Clerks,	16 to 75	1,293	30.80
30	Traders,	24 to 76	1,348	44.93
30	Shoemakers,	17 to 77	1,234	41.13
28	Tailors,	18 to 80	1,211	43.25
28	Carpenters,	19 to 80	1,109	39.60
20	Printers,	16 to 84	686	34.30
19	Machinists,	20 to 60	799	42.05
18	Gentlemen,	24 to 85	1,227	68.17
13	Teamsters,	18 to 50	431	33.16
11	Painters,	19 to 69	481	43.73
11	Masons,	27 to 79	621	56.45
10	Blacksmiths,	25 to 67	420	42.00
10	Farmers, Gardeners, &c.,	26 to 75	442	44.20
6	Waiters, &c.,	20 to 50	196	32.66
6	Ship-Carpenters,	20 to 61	230	38.33
6	Clergymen,	34 to 79	324	54.00
5	Physicians,	40 to 79	302	60.40
5	Stone-Cutters,	37 to 71	256	51.20
4	Cabinet-Makers,	21 to 47	151	37.75
3	Lawyers,	27 to 73	156	52.00
3	Riggers, &c.,	41 to 77	184	61.33
146	Various occupations,	17 to 78	6,012	41.17
839			35,574	42.40

Laborers. — Of the 839 whose occupations are given, Laborers, as usual, constitute a very large portion, — no less than 290, making 34.56 per cent. of all whose occupations are given. Their average age is 42.81 years, a decrease of two years.

Mariners. — This class appears with a number reduced 27 from last year. They constitute 6.19 per cent. of the whole number given in the table, and average 36.78 years.

Merchants. — The deaths among this class have increased 20 the past year, — 43 being the number that died. Their average age is 49.58 years.

Clerks. — The number of Clerks is 42, — an increase of three. Their average age appears as 30.80 years.

Traders. — The number of this class that died is 30, — a decrease of four, — with an average age of 44.93.

Shoemakers. — This class, numbering 30, has increased 12 over the previous year, while seven years have been added to the average duration of life.

Tailors. — Eight less of this class have died, the past year, than the preceding, besides adding to their average age four years.

Carpenters. — There is a decrease here of 14, with a diminished average age of 10 years.

Printers. — The deaths among the members of this craft have increased from 9 in 1857 to 20 in 1858. Their average age has fallen during the same time from 49.55 to 34.30 years.

Gentlemen. — An addition of one to the number reported in 1857 is recorded in the foregoing table. As

a recompense for this slight increase in the mortality, one year has been added to their average age.

Machinists.—In 1857, 9 Machinists died,—the past year there were 19,—an increase of more than double. Seven years, however, were added to their average age.

Painters.—While the deaths of these the past year were 5 less than in 1857, their average age is eight years more.

The mortality among Merchants, Clerks, Shoemakers, Printers, Gentlemen, Machinists, Teamsters, Masons, Gardeners, &c., has increased; while it has diminished among Laborers, Mariners, Traders, Tailors, Carpenters, Painters, Blacksmiths, &c., &c. The whole number given is but 20 less than the number reported in 1857. The aggregate ages of the whole number amount to 35,574.74 years, while their average age is 42.40 years.

The aggregate ages of all who died during the past year amount to 85,072 years,—an increase of 2,287 years. This amount will allow to the whole number an average age of 22.15 years,—more than a year above the average of 1857. If the ages of those who died from casualties be deducted from the gross amount, there will be left an aggregate of 79,797 years, giving to those who died from disease alone, an average age of 21.76 years,—more than a year above the average age of 1857.

The number of males who died (exclusive of those who died from casualties, &c.,) was 1,796. The aggregate ages of these amount to 36,730 years, allowing to them an average age of 20.45 years.

The number of females who died from disease alone was 1,870. Their aggregate ages amount to 43,066 years, which allow to them an average age of over 23 years,—an increase of more than a year over the average of last year.

The aggregate ages of 613 American males amount to 17,614 years,—which allows to them an average of 28 years. The aggregate ages of 1,321 foreign males (including those of foreign parentage under 20 years of age,) amount to 23,866 years, which gives to this class an average age of only 18.06 years,—an increase of a year over the average of 1857, but ten years below the average age of American males.

The aggregate ages of 662 American females amount to 20,609 years, which gives to them an average age of 31.13 years, while the average age of 1,244 foreign females (whose aggregate ages amount to 23,431 years,) reaches only 18.83 years,—more than twelve years below the average of American females! The average age of American males and females combined is 29.62 years,—of foreign males and females, 18.43 years,—a difference of more than eleven years.

Of those who died, 1,080 of both sexes were married at the time of their death,—96 more than died the previous year,—making 28.12 per cent. of the whole number that died. The number of married males was 588, of which 368 were foreigners. The females number 492,—62 more than died in 1857,—of whom 295 were foreign-born.

The number of widowers who died was only 75,—41 of whom were native-born, while the widows numbered 239,—123 of whom were born here.

The deaths of colored persons number 60,—19 males and 41 females,—a decrease of 13 from 1857. It will be noticed that the females exceed the males in the proportion of more than two to one! The aggregate ages of this class amount to 1,598 years, allowing to the males an average age of 22.89 years, and to the females 28.36 years.

Of the 92 deaths from “Old Age,” 47,—16 males and 31 females,—were native-born.

There was but one death of a person over 100 years old,—that of an Irish female.

XII. *Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Intentions of Marriages recorded each month.*

MONTHS.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Intentions.
January,	531	309	223	235
February,	443	308	182	152
March,	520	342	100	145
April,	474	305	213	223
May,	402	298	175	171
June,	400	267	160	168
July,	464	273	167	168
August,	504	413	163	176
September,	489	406	163	189
October,	459	315	197	232
November,	463	303	275	275
December,	448	301	127	184
	5,597	3,840	2,155	2,318

INTERMENTS.

During the past year, the City of Boston purchased Mount Hope Cemetery, which now sustains the same relation to it, that Forest Hills Cemetery does to the City of Roxbury. In accordance with an Ordinance adopted at the consummation of the purchase, a portion of the Cemetery has been laid out by the Trustees, in whose hands it has been placed, as a free burial place for the inhabitants of the city. In July last, the Board of Aldermen ordered, that, thereafter, those who might be buried at the expense of the city, should be interred at Mount Hope Cemetery, instead of East Boston, and that the privilege of interment at the latter place should be restricted to the inhabitants of that portion of the city. This measure has already greatly diminished intramural interments, and the hope may be indulged, that they will altogether cease at no distant day.

The interments in the city proper, during the past year, were only 167 ; at East Boston, 240 ; and at South Boston, 208. The remaining 3,225 bodies were buried beyond the limits of the city. The number of bodies brought from other places for interment in private tombs in the city was 86, eleven more than were brought here in 1857. During the same time, 163 bodies were removed from city tombs for re-interments elsewhere.

Respectfully submitted,

N. A. APOLLONIO.

City Registrar's Office, }
Feb. 14, 1859. }

REPORT

OF THE

CITY REGISTRAR,

OF THE

Births, Marriages, and Deaths

IN THE

CITY OF BOSTON, FOR THE YEAR

1859.



BOSTON:

GEO. C. RAND & AVERY, CITY PRINTERS,

NO. 3 CORNHILL.

1860.

City Document.—No. 85.

REPORT

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2

BOSTON:

GEO. C. RAND & AVERY, CITY PRINTERS,

NO. 3 CORNHILL.

1860.

CITY OF BOSTON.

In Board of Aldermen, Nov. 12, 1860.

Laid on the table and six hundred copies ordered to be printed.

Attest:

S. F. McCLEARY, *City Clerk.*

R E P O R T.

TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

The City Registrar herewith presents his annual Report of the Births, Marriages, and Deaths in the City of Boston during the year 1859.

This Report has been delayed until the present time by constantly increasing duties, which have rendered its earlier appearance impossible.

BIRTHS.

The number of children born during the year 1859 was 5,895, an increase of 298 over the number born during the previous year. This increase is a large one, and assumes some significance when compared with the remarkable decrease of the preceding year. It was intimated in the last Report that this latter result was in some way caused by the financial depression of the year 1857; but no opinion was expressed as to whether it indicated a diminished population, or was to be ascribed to mere prudential considerations on the part of those who hesitated to assume a position calculated to insure a contrary result. From the returns of the last year, however, it would seem that the latter suggestion is not very wide of the truth, inasmuch as with the return of material prosperity, an increase in the number of births is witnessed.

There is nothing that more truly indicates the material prosperity of a community than its constant and uniform numerical growth. And it is equally true that a diminution of its numbers is a positive subtraction from its wealth. Hence it becomes important to notice the fluctuations in the statistics of population from year to year; and a careful scrutiny of these, with a proper consideration of the whole subject, in the various aspects in which it naturally presents itself, render it apparent that the interests involved therein are many, and are of the first importance.

The following statement shows the number of births in each of the last five years :

1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.
5,816.	5,922.	5,881.	5,597.	5,895.

It will be seen, by the above, that the number of births during the year 1858 — the year following the monetary panic — was very much less than the number of either of the three preceding years, — and 219 less than those of 1855. Without endeavoring to assign the precise cause of this great decrease, it may not be amiss to say, that the increase in each of the years 1856, 1857, and 1859, has not been so great as might naturally have been expected. The average number of births for the last five years has been about 5,822, this average exceeding the number born in 1855 by only six. From the care taken to insure full returns, it is believed that but a very few births have escaped registration.

If the number of births in Boston in 1859 be compared with the published returns of the city of Philadelphia for the same period, the former place has reason

to congratulate itself on the exhibited result. The number of children born in Philadelphia in 1859 is given as 14,832. Estimating the population at 570,000, the births were in the ratio of 1 in every 38.43; while in Boston, with an estimated population of 177,000, the births were in the ratio of 1 in 30.53. This great difference, however, is undoubtedly owing to the inefficient method in vogue in Philadelphia, of making returns, allowing a large number of the births to go unrecorded.

Another striking feature observable in the returns of the two cities is worthy of notice. In Philadelphia, the number of males born exceeded the females by 506; while in Boston, the males exceeded the females by only 107. In the latter city, there has not been any considerable variation in this respect for the last ten years.

If the births be given by months, and the latter arranged according to seasons, the following result will be seen:—

December.....533	March.....502	June.....457	Sept..... 498
January .....504	April.....407	July.....461	Oct.....544
February .....425	May.....514	August.....532	Nov.....518
<u>1462</u>	<u>1423</u>	<u>1450</u>	<u>1560</u>

There were fewer births during what are termed the spring months than during either of the other seasons; while the largest number occurred during the fall or autumnal months. There were only twelve more births in December, January, and February, than in June, July, and August.

I. *Births, 1859. NATIVITY of Parents.*

BIRTHPLACES OF FATHERS.	BIRTHPLACES OF MOTHERS.											
	U. States.	England.	Ireland.	Scotland.	British Am. Provinces.	Germany.	France.	Italy.	Portugal.	Other Places.	Unknown.	Totals.
United States	1414	34	150	7	101	2				8	8	1725
England	50	89	83	8	21	3				5	1	260
Ireland	100	31	2736	7	71	3				2	1	2951
Scotland	8	5	25	26	14					1		79
Br. Am. Provinces..	63	13	57	12	143					1	2	291
Germany.....	19	1	31	1	3	250	5			2		312
France.....	5	3	7		2	7	5					29
Italy.....	3		2		1			20				26
Portugal.....			2							1		3
Other places	20	8	35	1	6	8	1			57	1	137
Unknown.....	19	3	11		2						47	82
Totals.....	1701	187	3140	62	364	273	11	20		77	60	5895

The foregoing will be easily understood. The perpendicular line of totals indicates the fathers, and the horizontal, or bottom line, the mothers. The first line in the right-hand column shows that the fathers of 1,725 children were born in the United States; and the first line in the left-hand column, that 1,414 of this number were born of American mothers. This last number, therefore, represents the unmixed native element, or about 24 per cent. of the whole amount. The number of instances in 1858, in which both parents were native born, was 1,411,—showing a difference of only three between the two years. The number of cases in which both parents were Irish, was

2,736 — or 46.41 per cent. of the whole number. The year before, a similar result was exhibited.

The following statement may serve as a partial analysis of the foregoing Table. Each division exhibits its proportion of births of unmixed parentage, amounting in the aggregate to over 79 per cent., leaving about 20 per cent. of the births of mixed parentage. Some hesitation was felt in classing those births where both parents were born in the British Provinces, as of homogeneous origin; as they differ so widely, and present so many diverse characteristics, that they can hardly be said to have a common origin.

U. States.	England.	Ireland.	Scotland.	Germany.	Italy.	Br. A. Provinces.
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Percent.	Per cent.
23.98	1.50	46.41	.44	4.24	.33	2.12

It will be seen by the foregoing that only about 24 per cent. of the births was of unmixed native parentage, — a proportion considerably less than that presented the previous year. It will, perhaps, surprise some to learn that while nearly half of the children born in Boston are of Irish parentage, but half of the remainder are of American origin.

The subjoined table shows the proportion of births in each ward to the whole number born, compared with the proportion of the deaths in the same places to the whole mortality.

Wards.	Per cent. of Births.	Per cent. of Deaths.	Wards.	Per cent. of Births.	Per cent. of Deaths.
1	12.41	14.17	7	9.87	9.28
2	13.09	8.48	8	6.07	7.25
3	8.07	8.85	9	5.54	4.94
4	2.17	2.16	10	8.34	7.65
5	4.93	4.46	11	10.77	9.17
6	4.05	4.81	12	14.70	11.66

It will be observed that the births in Ward One amounted to 12.41 per cent. of the whole number, while the deaths there made 14.17 per cent. of the entire mortality. The year previous, the same difference existed, although not to so great an extent. It is not difficult to assign the cause of this fearful destruction of life, when the localities where it principally occurs are remembered, and the social characteristics of the victims understood. The ward is a populous one, and, according to the census of 1855, it exceeded either of the others by over eight hundred. For the last five years, the births in this ward have been gradually diminishing. In 1856, there were 869 births; the following year there were but 756, while in 1858, there were but 658. The census of the present year will show whether these facts are the result of a decreasing population, or are to be attributed to other causes.

The contrast between Ward One and Ward Two is very marked. With the single exception of the year 1858, the births in each of the last five years were more than in the preceding one. If the births in the Rainsford Island Hospital (which are numbered in the foregoing table among those of Ward Two) be deducted, the proportion will be 12.77 per cent. of all the

births, showing the island ward to be the most prolific one of the twelve. By referring to the foregoing Table, we find that while the mortality of Ward Two was 8.48 per cent. of the entire mortality, the births there were over 13 per cent. of all the births. This fact of itself is sufficient to entitle that ward to the enviable distinction of being the healthiest one of the whole number. In regard to East Boston, it may not be amiss to say, that an impression prevails that that locality is not a healthy one, from its exposure to the east wind, which has no very flattering reputation. It is pretty generally believed that this wind conduces to pulmonary diseases; — that it is, in fact, an ill wind, and does nobody any good. If this belief is well founded, the mortality there would confirm it. So far from this being the case, the result is, that the deaths there from Phthisis — which is supposed by many to be aggravated by the East winds — are less there than in any other ward, with the exception of Wards 4, 5, and 9, — the least populous of the twelve wards.

A similar excess of the deaths over the births is seen in Wards 3, 6, and 8. As regards Wards 3 and 8, this result does not seem very different from what those localities would lead us to expect. But it is otherwise with Ward 6, which ought to appear, from its topographical features, the healthiest of the whole number.

The number of twin births was 36,—three less than were returned the previous year. In fifteen instances, both children were females; in thirteen, both were males; in the eight remaining cases, there was one of each sex in each instance. In seven of these cases,

both parents were born in the United States; and in two, the fathers only were native-born; while in each of the remaining twenty-seven, both parents were foreign-born. Of these last, in twenty-two instances, both parents were born in Ireland. Among native-born parents, the twin births were in the ratio of 1 to 202; while among the Irish, the proportion was 1 in 124.36.

The number of colored children born was 46, — an increase of 22 over the number recorded in 1858. The sexes were, 20 males and 26 females, — a preponderance of the latter sex, when the whole number is considered, not a little remarkable.

Another remarkable fact connected with the colored population is seen by the following comparative statement of the births, marriages, and deaths among them, which shows to what extent the mortality exceeds the natural increase. It is manifest, from this exhibition, that the race among us is doomed to a speedy extinction, unless sustained by accessions from without. The fact is an exceedingly interesting one, and presents a question worthy of profound consideration.

	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
In 1855 there were	29	35	63
1856 " "	50	46	71
1857 " "	34	34	73
1858 " "	24	32	60
1859 " "	46	37	58
Totals	183	184	325

It will be seen by the foregoing, that the colored births during the last five years were one *less* than the

number of marriages during the same period! and that the deaths exceeded the births in the proportion of nearly two to one! By the last Report of the City Registrar of Providence, a similar condition of the colored population is witnessed in that city, although not to so great an extent.

MARRIAGES.

During the year 1859, there were married in Boston, 2,481 couples, — an increase over the number married in 1858, of 326 couples. Although this is a considerable increase, it is 647 less than the number married in 1854, when the population of the city must have been at least 20,000 less than its present number. The Intentions of Marriage have been diminishing in a similar ratio, showing that the decrease in marriages cannot be owing to defective returns, but to other causes. The extent of the diminution of the Intentions of Marriages, and of marriages consummated, during the last six years, may be seen by the following: —

	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859
Intentions.....	3329	3061	2914	2683	2318	2629
Marriages.....	3128	2855	2536	2385	2155	2481

To account for this almost uniform decrease during a series of six years, would be an interesting subject for investigation. A diminished population would account for the fact, or financial embarrassments might have afforded a cause. Neither of these, however, can

account for the singular result. The population has undoubtedly increased materially since 1854, while no monetary difficulties have occurred during the last six years, with the exception of 1857. The real cause may have a less creditable origin, — to one, perhaps, to which it may not be advisable to allude otherwise than obscurely. To the thoughtful, the following statement will be sufficiently intelligible. It shows the number of *first* marriages of both sexes, in each of the last six years: —

1st marriage of	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859
Males.....	2717	2449	2149	1999	1789	2107
Females.....	2819	2559	2230	2101	1915	2164

With the exception of the last year, which was simply a rebound from the depression of the previous year, there has been a regular decrease in the first marriages of both sexes during the last six years. To assign a *satisfactory* cause for this fact is no easy matter. An opposite result would be the *natural* and proper one to be looked for, and it is a matter for profound regret that it is not exhibited. The reason thus hinted at receives some support, it is thought, from the following statement of the *second* marriages of both sexes during the same period:

2d marriage of	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859
Males.....	368	373	346	342	337	336
Females.....	284	282	282	250	235	298

Can any good reason be assigned why there should be a uniform decrease in *first* marriages, and at the same

time *second* marriages should occur without any material change? However indiscreet it may be for young men, under certain circumstances, to enter into wedlock, it will not be denied that it is eminently *natural* for them to do so; and it seems equally a matter of certainty that in a healthy condition of society, this relation *will be* assumed by the *unmarried*, *maugre* all prudential considerations.

The birthplaces of the couples married are seen in the following table: —

III. MARRIAGES, 1859. NATIVITY of the Couples Married.

BIRTHPLACES OF THE GROOMS.		BIRTHPLACES OF THE BRIDES.															
		Boston.	Mass.	Maine.	New Hampshire.	Vermont.	R. Island.	Connecticut.	Other States.	England.	Ireland.	Scotland.	British American Provinces.	Germany and N. Europe.	(Other Foreign Places.	Unknown.	Totals.
	Boston	115	35	20	8	3	2	3	8	6	41	1	13	.....	3	.....	263
	Massachusetts (except Boston).....	69	123	52	30	4	2	1	9	9	10	3	17	.....	1	5	340
	Maine.....	36	32	79	13	4	1	2	3	2	13	.....	14	2	1	2	204
	New Hampshire.....	29	21	19	16	3	.....	.....	2	.....	4	1	5	.....	.....	1	101
	Vermont.....	9	3	10	10	10	.....	1	2	.....	4	.....	2	.....	1	.....	52
	Rhode Island.....	2	4	.....	1	.....	8	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	13
	Connecticut.....	4	1	3	4	1	1	1	.....	1	4	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	21
	Other States.....	27	15	11	3	3	.....	.....	16	5	15	.....	8	.....	.....	.....	103
	England and Wales.....	8	12	5	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	23	43	3	6	1	1	.....	105
	Ireland.....	30	9	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	14	777	5	24	.....	.....	1	865
	Scotland.....	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	11	13	7	.....	.....	.....	41
	British Provinces.....	20	9	8	1	.....	1	.....	.....	6	29	4	42	1	.....	1	122
	Germany, and North of Europe.....	9	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	4	4	38	.....	7	97	3	.....	165
	Other Foreign Places.....	9	2	1	1	1	.....	.....	1	1	11	.....	6	2	39	.....	74
	Unknown.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	11
	At sea .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
	Totals.....	369	275	211	91	29	10	8	49	77	1000	30	153	103	50	21	2481

The foregoing shows very clearly the materials which compose the warp and woof of our population. It is a noticeable fact, that only 263 of the grooms, or 10.60 per cent. of the whole number, were born in Boston; and only 369 of the brides, or 14.87 per cent. of the entire number, were born here. The number of instances in which Boston-born grooms married Boston brides, was only 115,—being only 4.63 per cent. of the whole number. The number of grooms born in the United States was 1,097, or 44.21 per cent. of the entire number. In 1858, the same class numbered 963, or 44.68 per cent,—a slight falling off in the native element. The number of brides born in the United States was 1,042, or 42 per cent. In 1858, the same class made 42.13 per cent. The relative increase of the native grooms and brides in 1859, over the same classes in 1858, was the same in each year, viz. 134. Another fact worthy of notice is, that in 1859, the number of foreign grooms amounted to 1,384, an increase of 192 over the number of the previous year. The number of foreign brides was 1,439, just 192 more than the number of 1858. There were but 895 instances, or 36 per cent. only, in which the groom and bride were native-born. In the preceding year, the percentage of this class was nearly 37 per cent. The number of instances in which Irish grooms married Irish brides in 1859, was 777, or 31.31 per cent. In 1858, the percentage was 32.15 per cent. No less than 1,000, or 40.30 per cent. of the brides were born in Ireland,—a slight advance over the preceding year, when it was 39.72 per cent. Of this number, only 91 married American grooms. The number of instances in which both

parents were born in New England, was 795, or 32 per cent. of the whole number. In the year previous, this element made 33.64 per cent.

III. MARRIAGES. AGES of the Couples Married.

AGES OF THE GROOMS.	AGES OF THE BRIDES.										Totals.
	Under 20.	20 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	45 to 50.	50 to 55.	55 to 60.	Unknown.	
Under 21 years.....	27	22	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52
21 to 25 "	210	495	90	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	800
25 to 30 "	109	447	261	44	7	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	869
30 to 35 "	23	147	124	79	14	5	1	.....	.....	1	394
35 to 40 "	4	41	57	43	25	7	4	.....	.....	.....	181
40 to 45 "	1	7	23	16	28	10	3	.....	.....	.....	88
45 to 50 " ....	.....	1	9	8	13	8	4	1	.....	.....	44
50 to 55 "	1	2	.....	3	8	1	2	3	.....	.....	20
55 to 60 "	1	1	.....	2	3	3	4	2	.....	.....	16
60 to 65 " ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
65 to 70 " ....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2
70 to 80 " ....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	1	4
Unknown.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	10
Totals.....	376	1165	565	203	98	35	18	9	1	11	2481

It will be seen by the foregoing, that 869, or 35 per cent. of the grooms were married between the ages of 25 and 30, and that 800, or 32.24 per cent. were married between the ages of 21 and 25.

Of the brides, 1,165, or 47 per cent. were married between the ages of 20 and 25, and 376, or 15.15 per cent. were under 20 years of age.

The number of male minors married was 52, — one a youth of 16 (who married a bride of the same age, — the youngest couple married); one of 17; four of 18;

nine of 19; and 37 of 20. This class makes 2 per cent. of all the males married.

The number of female minors married — that is, those under 18 years of age — was 58, about the same proportion as that of the males. Among these, seven were only 15 years of age; fourteen of 16; and thirty-seven of 17. In eight instances, minor grooms were married to minor brides. One of the brides, only 17 years of age, was married to a groom of the mature age of 58. Another, who had not reached her twentieth year, married a groom who had left his fiftieth year some distance behind; and still another of the same age chose a partner between 40 and 45. One bride, under 25 years, was borne off a willing captive by a juvenile groom who had long before seen his threescore years and ten. The predilections of the grooms are no less striking. One young gentleman who had not yet attained his majority, united himself to a lady nearly 30 years of age; while two others, of about the same age, with commendable courage, carried off brides, each of whom had passed that age.

There were 37 colored couples married, and 11 instances in which the grooms were colored and the brides white. In most of these marriages, the grooms were seafaring men; and as it is understood that the greater part of them married on their arrival from voyages, at which time they are supposed to be in possession of a little more money than most seamen know what to do with, such unions will not be greatly wondered at.

One couple were deaf mutes.

Fourteen per cent. of the males married females older than themselves. The same proportion was observed the preceding year.

IV. MARRIAGES. CONDITION (*Widowed or Single*) and
RESIDENCES.

Grooms.	Brides. No. of times Married.						Residences.		
	First.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	Unknown.	Totals.		Males.	Females.
1st Marriage	1936	167	4	.....	.....	2107	Boston	1949	2074
2d do	216	116	3	1	.....	336	Other places in Mass'..	421	327
3d do	10	13	.....	.....	.....	23	Other States	111	80
4th do	1	2	.....	.....	.....	3			
Unknown	1	.....	.....	.....	11	12			
Totals.	2164	298	7	1	11	2481		2481	2481

Of the whole number of grooms, 2,107, or nearly 85 per cent. were their first marriages, — nearly 2 per cent. more than those of the previous year. 167 of these were married to widows, while four, wholly inexperienced, became third husbands to their brides. Of the 336 widowers married, 216, or 8.70 per cent. married maidens; 116 were united to brides who had been widowed once; three who had been twice widowed; while one reckless individual did not hesitate to unite himself to a lady who had followed to the house appointed for all living, three husbands.

Of the brides married, 2,164, or over 87 per cent. were their first marriages. In 1858, these marriages made nearly 89 per cent. of the whole number. The number of widows married was 298, or 12 per cent. In 1858, this class made 10.81 per cent. of all the marriages.

Of the grooms, 1,949, or 78.51 per cent. were residents of Boston; nearly 17 per cent. resided in other parts of the State; while the remainder resided in other States. On the other hand, 83.59 per cent. of the brides resided in Boston; 13.18 per cent. were resident of other parts of the State; while 3 per cent. dwelt beyond the limits of the State.

The following table will show the occupations of the principal portion of the grooms. It will be seen that nearly 20 per cent. of them were laborers, and 10.68 per cent. seamen. These two classes make over 30 per cent. of the whole number. Laborers, mariners, clerks, traders, and shoemakers make nearly 46 per cent. of those whose occupations are given.

Laborers.....	494—19.90 per cent.	Blacksmiths.....	32— 1.28 per cent.
Mariners.....	265—10.68 “	Curriers.....	35— 1.41 “
Clerks.....	169— 6.81 “	Printers.....	28— 1.12 “
Traders.....	106— 4.27 “	Ship Carpenters.....	25— 1.00 “
Shoemakers.....	105— 4.23 “	Masons.....	23— .92 “
Carpenters.....	97— 3.90 “	Stonecutters.....	21— .84 “
Teamsters.....	74— 3.00 “	Bakers.....	17— .68 “
Merchants.....	65— 2.62 “	Lawyers.....	11— .44 “
Machinists.....	63— 2.53 “	Physicians.....	11— .44 “
Tailors.....	55— 2.21 “	Gentlemen.....	10— .40 “
Painters.....	44— 1.77 “	Waiters.....	12— .48 “
Farmers, &c.....	37— 1.50 “	Clergymen.....	5— .20 “

MORTALITY OF THE YEAR 1859.

The number of deaths the past year was 3,738,—102 less than were reported in 1858. In each of the last ten years, with but one or two exceptions, there has been a decrease from the number of deaths recorded in the preceding year. While much may be claimed for the excellency of our sanitary police, to account for this decrease, it is doubtful if, through the serious defects in the Registration law, a sufficient number to account for the falling off had not escaped registration altogether. However this may be, it is a matter for congratulation, that a remedy has at last been provided. The Legislature, at its last session, amended the Registry law, so as to require physicians to certify as to the cause of death. This, with a well-digested system of certificates for the removal and interment of bodies, will, if town clerks properly perform their duties, render it difficult for a death to escape registration. The benefits of such a system, rigidly and intelligently enforced, are too obvious to require comment. The amended law went into operation the first day of June last. Of course, the details of the previous five months will possess the defects consequent on the condition of the law at that period. There has been a decided improvement in the character of the returns since June; but an entirely satisfactory result can hardly be looked for before time shall have enabled those who are to carry out its provisions, to become familiar with their duties.

The aggregate ages of those who died during the

year amount to 88,845 years, — allowing to the whole number the average of nearly 23.77 years. This is an increase of more than one and a half per cent. over that of the previous year. If the aggregate ages of 143 persons who died from external causes — amounting to 5,086 years — be deducted from the gross amount, the average age of those who died from disease alone will be 23.30 years, nearly one and a half per cent. above the average age of the previous year.

The average age of those who were native-born was 29.28 years, — a slight decrease from the previous year. The average age of the American males was 27.58 years; and of the females 30.95 years, — a very slight falling off.

The average age of those who were foreign-born (including children of foreign parents) was 20.78 years, — an increase of more than two years over the average age of the same class the previous year, but falling below the age of the native-born more than eight years! The average age of foreign males was 19.83 years; of females, 21.80 years.

Of the whole number that died, 567 males and 477 females were married. About the same number, sustaining a similar relation, died the year previous. The number of widowers that died was 75 (the same number that died in 1858), — of widows, 301, — an increase of 62. Of the number of married males, 205 were native-born; of the widowers, 37 were of the same origin. Among the married females, 293 were native-born; and the widows, 131 were of the same origin.

The number of colored deaths was 58, — 34 males

and 24 females, — two less than died in 1858. Their average age is 26.77, — three years above the average age of the whites. The average age of the 34 colored males was 35.76 years; of the 24 females, 14.04 years.

V. DEATHS in BOSTON, on each day of the year 1859.

DAY.	JANUARY.	FEBRUARY.	MARCH.	APRIL.	MAY.	JUNE.	JULY.	AUGUST.	SEPTEMBER.	OCTOBER.	NOVEMBER.	DECEMBER.
1	8	9	15	12	13	14	12	21	13	11	10	9
2	9	7	11	18	11	4	16	18	13	17	14	7
3	9	6	8	9	14	7	6	8	15	11	7	6
4	5	6	15	9	16	11	6	15	17	15	10	8
5	10	9	12	10	12	10	9	22	12	8	7	11
6	11	10	9	9	7	5	10	8	12	12	13	10
7	9	10	7	11	7	4	12	13	15	9	12	10
8	8	7	6	6	14	4	8	12	15	11	7	8
9	7	2	14	9	6	10	7	19	9	9	6	3
10	12	4	7	3	14	10	10	10	14	6	16	9
11	7	6	8	17	5	6	13	16	15	10	12	12
12	6	12	11	3	8	12	8	9	20	6	5	9
13	10	15	7	9	10	6	13	14	15	11	14	4
14	19	16	8	8	6	15	9	14	10	14	7	23
15	15	6	14	9	6	6	13	15	9	11	10	18
16	8	10	5	15	16	6	16	8	13	7	14	13
17	10	7	3	9	8	3	8	16	11	10	4	10
18	2	10	10	10	10	10	8	19	11	8	9	11
19	10	10	13	15	9	12	10	11	7	8	13	10
20	11	10	6	6	10	9	10	17	17	14	9	9
21	7	8	19	12	5	11	7	14	9	4	13	10
22	13	11	6	19	8	6	19	11	9	14	8	12
23	4	8	5	9	13	8	16	12	8	18	10	14
24	9	9	7	7	15	7	10	8	10	9	10	13
25	14	8	10	14	7	6	11	14	10	10	7	15
26	7	8	9	8	7	6	8	20	15	7	11	6
27	13	9	9	11	6	8	13	15	12	7	14	18
28	7	8	6	9	11	9	11	13	14	12	14	5
29	13	.....	7	6	6	9	6	14	11	16	9	19
30	7	.....	10	8	15	10	8	19	7	10	8	15
31	10	.....	8	.....	3	.....	7	15	.....	9	.....	8
	290	241	285	295	293	244	320	440	368	324	303	335

Table VI. — (Continued.)

CAUSES OF DEATH.		JAN		FEB		MAR		APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUG		SEPT		OCT		NOV		DEC		TOTAL	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Dyspepsia.....				1				1														1			2	1	
Elephantiasis.....														1											1	1	
Enteritis.....		1	3	2	1	1	2	...	1	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	3	2	4	3	1	1	1		2	18	24
Epilepsy.....			1									1		1					1						1	3	
Erysipelas.....		1	1	1	2	...	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2			2		1	13	11	
Fever, Bilious.....							1		1							1	1				1			1	2	4	
Do Intermittent.....																1									1	...	
Do Typhoid.....		6	1				7	3	...	1	2	2	2	2	4	7	2	3	7	3	6	3	9	2	2	33	41
Fistula.....																	1									1	...
Gangrene.....																	1	1								1	1
Do Face.....																1										1	1
Do Leg.....			1																							1	1
Do Lungs.....														1					1				1			2	1
Gastritis.....		1	1	1	1		1					1		1		1						2	1	1		5	5
Gravel.....				1				1										1		1					4	...	
Hæmoptysis.....			3									2		1		1					1	1	1		6	4	
Hæmorrhage.....							1	2				1	1			2									3	4	

Heart, Disease of.....	5	7	4	5	4	7	1	5	5	3	4	3	3	2	2	5	5	8	4	5	6	6	49
Hip, Disease of.....			1					1		1								1				3	1
Homicide.....	1				1		1			2		2	1			1				1	1	7	4
Hooping Cough.....	1	4	2	2	1	1	1		3	1	2	3	6	2	9	5	4		1	1	2	1	3
Hydrocephalus.....	6	6	8	5	11	10	7	9	8	8	4	2	6	9	5	8	11	5	4	2	6	2	5
Hydrophobia.....										1												1	
Illeus.....								1														1	
Influenza.....	3																					3	
Insanity.....	1	1						1														1	
Intemperance.....	1		3		1		4	1	4	2	1	1		1	4		6		2	1	1	3	
Intussusception.....															1		1					2	
Ischuria.....																			1			1	
Jaundice.....		1	1											1								1	
Joints, Diseases of.....															2		1					3	
Kidneys, Diseases of.....	1				3		2			1		1		1		1			1		1	12	
Laryngitis.....						1														1		2	
Liver, Diseases of.....			2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	4		3	1		1		1	1	1	15	
Lungs, Diseases of.....	4	2	1	1	3	1	2	3		2	4	2		2	1		2	2	1	1		18	
Marasmus.....	2	1	1	3	3	4	5	4	4	2	3	2	2	6	3	4	7	3	7	1	3	35	
Measles.....				1	1	1			1	1	2		1	2	1		1					8	
Neuralgia.....										1									1	1		1	
Old age.....	3	8	3	2	4	4	3	10	1	6	1	2	1	3		3	3	4	2	6	1	2	
Paralysis.....	6	2	4	3	1	2	4	1	3	1		1		1	2	4	2		5	4	3	30	

Teething.....	1	4	1	5	9	4	4	6	2	5	1	6	4	16	6	5	5	5	3	1	1	2	59	30	
Tetanus.....						1					1					1							8		
Thrush.....	2						1							1	3	4	1	2		2	1		9	8	
Tumor.....											1		2		1								4		
Do Neck.....								1															1		
Do Side.....												1					1						2	2	
Do Stomach.....				1																			1		
Do Rectum.....																					1		1	1	
Do Uterus.....				1		1									1				2				5	5	
Ulcers.....	1					1													1		1	2	2	2	
Uterus, Inflammation of.....									1						1								2		
Worms						1							1							1			1	1	
	140	150	132	109	146	139	151	144	154	139	138	106	154	166	237	203	187	181	156	168	142	161	174	161	1911 1827

Accidents. — The number of deaths from casualties of all kinds is 143, — two more than occurred in the previous year. Table VI. will show the specific cause of death in each case. It is not a little remarkable, that about the same number of accidental deaths should occur in each year. For the last ten years, the deaths from external causes each year have not varied materially from the number recorded the present year. As usual, foreigners and their children furnish a large proportion of the victims, — no less than 71.32 per cent.

Apoplexy. — The number of deaths thus classed is 55, — 26 more than were recorded in 1858. As has been remarked in previous Reports, little reliance can be placed on the correctness of these returns. The larger part of those thus dying, 56.36 per cent. were native-born.

Bowels, Diseases of. — The deaths thus classed (comprising "Inflammation," "Congestion," &c.) number 47, one less than the number reported in 1858. These cases seem to be very evenly divided among the sexes, and do not appear to be more prevalent during one portion of the year than another. They make 1.25 per cent. of the whole mortality. Much care has been taken to verify the accuracy of these returns; and it is believed that the present year's record is a great advance on previous reports.

Brain, Diseases of. — The deaths from causes thus designated were 110, nearly 3 per cent. of the whole mortality. They are very evenly distributed throughout the year, 64 of them being males, and 42 females; a proportion of two of the latter to three of the former. In 1858, the deaths from causes thus specified

numbered 90, and made 3.34 per cent. of the entire mortality: As usual, the native population furnishes the largest portion of the victims. If the numerous deaths from causes which are otherwise distinctively classed, are taken into account; such as from *Apoplexy*, *Convulsions*, &c. — it will be seen how large is the proportion of deaths from cerebral diseases. There is an evident cause for this result. The condition of society, almost every event, and every thing, seems to bear with unremitting pressure upon the nervous system, producing that high state of mental excitement, which manifests itself in derangement of the brain. In these cases, the larger part of the victims were of native birth.

Bronchitis. — There were 18 deaths from this cause, — 12 males, and 6 females. Nearly all of these cases were of children, and were mostly certified to by physicians. Most of them occurred among the foreign-born population, and in locations peculiarly favorable to catarrhal affections.

Cancer. — The deaths from this horrible disease number 46, — five more than occurred the previous year. As usual, the greatest portion of the victims were females, numbering no less than 34, while the males contribute only 12 to the bill of mortality, the same number that died in 1858. Table VI. shows the locality of the disease in every case but two.

Cholera Infantum. — The number of deaths from this cause amounts to 243, — an increase of 19 over last year's result, — making 6.50 per cent. of the entire mortality. Of those dying, 184, or nearly 76 per cent. were children of foreign parentage. All but twenty-five of these deaths occurred in the months of July, August, and September.

Consumption. — The deaths from this malady the present year amount to 739, — a decrease of 45 from the number of the previous year, — making 19.77 per cent. of the mortality from all causes. In 1858, the deaths from Consumption made 20.41 per cent. of all the deaths. Not reckoning those who died from casualties, &c., the victims from this great destroyer made 20.71 per cent. of those who died from disease alone the past year, a considerable reduction from the number that died in 1858, when it was 21.38 per cent. Of those who died, 309 were males, and 430 females. The year previous, the males numbered 371, and the females, 413, a decrease in the number of the first named the present year of 62, and an increase of 17 in the number of the last named. The birthplaces of those dying from Consumption are seen in the following table : —

	Males	Females	Total
Born in the United States	100	144	244
Do England and Wales.....	8	2	10
Do Scotland		3	3
Do Ireland.....	160	221	381
Do British American Provinces.....	19	21	40
Do Germany and Northern Europe..	4	9	13
Do Other Foreign Places	7	2	9
Children of Foreign Parents.....	11	28	39
	309	430	739

It will be seen by the foregoing, that nearly 67 per cent. of the victims were foreign-born, including the children of foreign-born parents among the number ;

51.55 per cent. of the whole number were born in Ireland, while only 33 per cent. were born in the United States. It is an interesting fact to notice, that of the whole number of those born in Ireland who died the past year, 1 in 5 died of Consumption; while the deaths of those born in the United States, from the same disease, were only 1 in 10.48. Those born in England were in the proportion of 1 in 15; Scotland 1 in 16; in the British American Provinces, 1 in 2.55; in Germany and Northern Europe, 1 in 12; and in other foreign places 1 in 7.

The following table gives the number of deaths from *Consumption* in each Ward, and in the several Public Institutions:—

Wards.	Deaths.	Wards.	Deaths.	Public Institutions.	Deaths.
1	95	7	79	Massachusetts Hospital.....	12
2	63	8	64	Rainsford Island Hospital.....	13
3	73	9	42	Deer Island	8
4	18	10	60	Lunatic Asylum	3
5	35	11	64	House of Correction.....	4
6	28	12	78		

The largest number of deaths occurred in Ward 1, amounting to 95, or nearly 13 per cent. of the whole number. In Wards 7, 12, and 3, there was but little difference in the number of deaths that occurred in those localities; in the former, there were 79 deaths and in the latter, 73. In Ward 4, there were but 18 deaths, and in Ward 6, 28. There were but 40 deaths in the Public Institutions, a decrease of nearly 50 per cent. from the number that died in those places the previous year.

The occupations of the males will be seen by the following table:—

Laborers.....	107	Real estate agent.....	1
Tailors.....	16	Glass maker.....	1
Traders.....	16	Newsman.....	1
Mariners.....	14	Glazier.....	1
Clerks.....	10	Truss maker.....	1
Merchants.....	8	Jeweller.....	1
Printers.....	7	Cook.....	1
Machinists.....	6	Draughtsman.....	1
Carpenters.....	5	Hackman.....	1
Painters.....	5	Varnisher.....	1
Shoemakers.....	4	Tobacco manufacturer.....	1
Blacksmiths.....	3	Glass blower.....	1
Plumbers.....	3	Ship smith.....	1
Barbers.....	3	Music teacher.....	1
Teamsters.....	3	Keeper of billiard saloon.....	1
Masons.....	3	Harness maker.....	1
Waiters.....	2	Ilatter.....	1
Boarding-house keepers.....	2	Saddler.....	1
Gentlemen.....	2	Piano-forte tuner.....	1
Farmers, etc.....	2	Lawyer.....	1
Cutters.....	2	Bar keeper.....	1
Coopers.....	2	Carver.....	1
Plasterers.....	2	Watchman.....	1
Trunk makers.....	2	Weaver.....	1
Paper hangers.....	2	Miller.....	1
Silversmiths.....	2	Stonecutter.....	1
Brush maker.....	1	Rigger.....	1
Organ builder.....	1	Musician.....	1
Ship broker.....	1	Coppersmith.....	1
Marble worker.....	1	Stabler.....	1
Comedian.....	1	Polisher.....	1
Crockery packer.....	1	Image vender.....	1
Chemist.....	1	Boiler maker.....	1
Policeman.....	1	Servant.....	1
Constable.....	1	Not stated.....	31
ar maker.....	1		
Porter.....	1		

As usual, laborers comprise the largest portion of those who died from this disease, — there being no less than 34.62 per cent. of this class. The whole number of “laborers” that died from all causes was 285, — 37.54 per cent. of whom died from Consumption. Nearly 53 per cent. of those who died from this disease were laborers, tailors, traders, mariners, and clerks.

Convulsions. — The number of deaths from causes thus specified was 68, — 51 less than the number reported in 1858. The present year, these deaths make less than 2 per cent. of the whole mortality; — the previous year they made over 3 per cent. Of the whole number, 54, or about 80 per cent., were children of foreign parents. The number of males that died was 41, and of females, 27.

Croup. — The number of deaths from this cause was 84, — 18 less than occurred the previous year, — 46 males and 38 females, or 2.24 per cent. of the entire mortality. The parents of 61 of the children were foreign born, while three were born in foreign countries.

Debility. — There were 58 deaths from diseases thus designated — 18 males and 40 females. With the exception of one, all of these cases were of persons who had passed beyond the age of middle-life, but who could scarcely be considered to have reached old age. Of the whole number, 35 were foreign-born.

Diarrhœa and Dysentery. — The mortality from these two diseases amounts to 81, 42 males and 39 females, — making 2.16 per cent. of all the deaths. No deaths from the first-named cause occurred prior to August, in which month only one death occurred. There were no deaths from Dysentery prior to May, in which month

there were four deaths. There were no deaths in June. The greatest mortality was in July, August, and September. In 1858, there were 118 deaths from these two causes. The accuracy of these returns, however, is questionable. Either term is employed by a great many, just as chance or fancy may dictate, to designate either disease. *Diarrhœa* is very likely to be called *Dysentery*, or *vice versa*, by most people, who wish to be more specific, when their use of the term "*Disease of the Bowels*" is objected to. Of the mortality from these causes, foreigners and their children number 54, — making over 66 per cent. of the whole number.

Infantile Diseases. — This term is employed to denote a class of diseases belonging to the first days of childhood. Few or none of these were of children more than a month old, and a very large portion of them died on the day of their birth. Had it been possible to ascertain the particulars concerning each instance, no doubt many of the children would have been found to have been prematurely born. The number dying from causes thus specified, is 165, — 99 males and 66 females, — making 4.41 per cent. of all the deaths. The year previous, these deaths numbered 205, — 5.33 per cent. of all the deaths in that year. As usual, the children of foreign parents furnish the greatest proportion of the victims, — there being no less than 134, or more than 81 per cent. of all the deaths thus classed.

Dropsy. — The number of deaths thus reported was 103, — an increase of 27 over the number of the previous year. The sexes were very evenly divided, — there being 52 males and 51 females. Of the whole number, foreigners and their children make 64, or 62.13 per

cent. of all the deaths reported from this cause. The term "dropsy" is found to be a very convenient one for general use, and is often made to bear a responsibility not belonging to it.

Dropsy of the Brain.—The number of deaths from this disease is 154,—77 males and the same number of females,—a decrease of 22 from the number reported in 1858. Of the whole number, only 50 were children of native-born parents. The largest number of deaths from this cause, in any one month was 21, in the month of March. These deaths make over 4.11 per cent. of the entire mortality.

Erysipelas.—This disease numbers 24 as its victims the past year, 13 males and 11 females. The year previous, there were 29 deaths.

Elephantiasis.—A single death from this loathsome disease, that of a female, occurred in July.

Typhus Fever.—There were 74 deaths from this cause,—33 males and 41 females,—one more than were reported in 1858. There were but 17 deaths during the first four months of the year. The deaths thus recorded, with six designated as *Bilious Fever*, make 2.24 per cent. of all the deaths.

Scarlet Fever.—The number of deaths from this disease is 142,—an increase of three over the previous year,—73 males, and 69 females. The most fatal month was December, during which 25 deaths occurred. The deaths from this cause make nearly 4 per cent. of all the deaths from disease alone. The children of foreign parents number 99; nearly 70 per cent. of the whole number.

Gastritis.—There were 10 deaths from this cause; five males and five females.

Heart, Disease of.—The number of deaths thus reported was 107,—11 more than occurred the previous year,—49 males and 58 females. They make nearly 3 per cent. of all the deaths, exclusive of those from casualties, &c.

Hæmorrhage.—17 deaths are thus reported; 9 males, and 8 females. In 10 instances the hæmorrhage was from the lungs; six of them being males.

Homicide.—There were 11 deaths of this character during the past year; the same number that was recorded in 1857, but one more than was reported in 1858. It is somewhat singular, that there are about the same number of deaths each year from violence.

Hooping-cough.—The number of deaths from this cause is 55; a decrease of 59 from last year; 17 males and 38 females. The previous year, the males greatly predominated; there being 70 males to 44 females. More than 74 per cent. of the victims were children of foreign parents. With the exceptions of 1850, '53, '55, and '58, when the deaths from Hooping-cough were 81, 64, 78, and 114, in those years respectively, the variation in the number of deaths in one year from another has been very slight.

Hydrophobia.—One death from this malady is recorded; that of a child three years old, in the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Intemperance.—There were 36 instances of this character; 26 males and 10 females. Only nine were native-born. This term embraces all who died from *Delirium Tremens*.

Liver, Disease of.—The number of deaths from this unlucky organ was 29; two less than in 1858. A large portion of those in every community who are, or fancy

they are, diseased, imagine that the seat of their complaint is in the liver. This fancy is not an unreasonable one, when the prevailing indiscretions in eating and drinking are considered.

Lungs, Disease of.—There were 228 deaths from these causes; embracing 191 from Pneumonia, 36 from congestion, and one unknown; 131 males and 97 females. The mortality from these causes makes 6.39 per cent. of the deaths from all other diseases alone, or 6.09 per cent. of the mortality from all causes; the exact amount from the same causes the previous year. Of the whole number, 53 were foreign-born, and 98 were children of foreign parentage. These two classes make 66.22 per cent. of the whole number.

Marasmus. — There were 82 deaths thus designated, — a decrease of 16 from last year. Forty-six of these were children of native parents. This term, as here used, is a very vague and unsatisfactory one. The most of these cases were of children sick from their birth, — barely enough vitality in them to keep their respiratory organs in play for a month. The term has ever been a favorite one with some whose duty it has heretofore been to return the cause of death, and they have not been slow to press it into their service. These deaths make 2.22 per cent. of the entire mortality.

Measles. — The deaths from this disease number only 15, — 12 of which were of children of foreign parents. In 1858 there were 80 deaths from this cause, and in 1857 only six.

Old Age. — There were 78 deaths thus classed the past year, — 25 males and 53 females; 45 of whom

were native born. These deaths were a little over 2 per cent. of the whole mortality.

Paralysis.— The number of deaths from this cause was 51, — 30 males, and 21 females. During the previous year there were 48 deaths.

Pleurisy.— There were 28 deaths from this disease; only 7 being females, and only four native born.

Premature Birth.— There were 23 deaths of children who were prematurely born, — only 6 of them being females. During the year previous there were but 10 deaths of this character reported.

Scrofula.— Of the 19 deaths from this cause, — 8 males, and 11 females, — 14 were of native-born children.

Smallpox.— There were 156 deaths from this loathsome disease, — 102 males, and 54 females. The deaths from this cause make 4.17 per cent. of the entire mortality. Of the whole number, those who were foreign-born make 33, and children of foreign parentage 61; unitedly making 60.25 per cent. of the deaths from this cause. There were but three deaths in 1858 from this disease; one in March, one in April, and one in August. The first death the past year occurred in February; in March there were two; in the succeeding months there was a gradual increase, until December, in which month there were 38 deaths. The following table shows the deaths in each ward and in the Public Institutions:—

Wards.	No.	Wards.	No.	Wards.	No.	No.
1	49	5	5	9	2	Deer Island..... 8
2	8	6	10	10	9	Rainsford Island.. 12
3	15	7	9	11	9	Smallpox Hosp ... 9
4	2	8	1	12	8	

It will be seen that 31.41 per cent. of the deaths occurred in Ward 1. There was but one case in Ward 8, and 2 each in Wards 4 and 9. The ages of those who died from *Smallpox* may be seen by the following:

	Under 1 year	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60
Male	13	25	5	3	38	13	2	3
Female	8	21	6	3	8	2	3	3
	21	46	11	6	46	15	5	6

It will be observed, that 29.48 per cent. of the deaths were of children between the ages of one and five years; and the same percentage of those who died between the ages of 20 and 30 years. Of the 46 males who died under 20 years of age, only 11 were of native parentage; and of the 38 females, only 10 were of the same origin. Of the 56 males above the age of 20 years, 31 were native-born. Of the 16 females above the same age, 10 were native-born. It will not escape observation, that the males exceed the females nearly in the proportion of two to one.

Sore Throat. — There were 19 deaths from this cause; an increase of 10 over the number reported the previous year. The characteristics of these cases were of a malignant type; death resulting, in many instances, within a few hours after the attack. These cases will be found classed in the table under the head of *Diphtheria*.

Spine, Diseases of. — There were no less than 16 deaths from causes thus designated; 10 males and 6 females. In 1858 there were but 6 cases; 5 of them being females.

Suicides.—There were 16 cases of suicide; 13 males and 3 females. The only month in which there was not a death of this character was July. During the previous year there were 19 deaths, 12 of them being males.

Teething.—The number of deaths thus reported was 98; 59 males and 39 females; 22 less than the number reported in 1858; making 2.62 per cent. of the deaths from all causes. Children of foreign parentage contributed 77.55 per cent. of the victims. This term is found to be a convenient one to designate the cause of death of children of a certain age; and for that reason deserves to be closely scrutinized.

Unknown Diseases.—There were 67 instances in which no attempt was made to specify the disease; an increase of 23 over the previous year; making 1.79 per cent. of the entire mortality. If the deaths from diseases designated as *Infantile*, numbering 165, be added to these, the aggregate will make 6.20 per cent. of all the deaths. If, in addition to these, the deaths from causes specified as "*Diseases of the Bowels*," "*Diseases of the Brain*," "*Convulsions*," "*Debility*," "*Diseases of the Liver*," "*Diseases of the Lungs*," "*Marasmus*," "*Teething*," be similarly regarded, it will be found that over 25 per cent. of all the deaths are from causes of an uncertain character. Another portion, classed as "*Disease of the Heart*," "*Dropsy*," "*Diarrhoea*," "*Dysentery*," "*Dropsy of Brain*," and "*Scrofula*," making 12.41 per cent. of all the deaths, though not of so doubtful a character, have still but moderate claims on our confidence.

VII. BIRTHPLACES *and* PARENTAGE *of those who died in*
1859.

BIRTHPLACES.	M	F	P	BIRTHPLACES.	M	F	P
Boston	936	846	173	England and Wales ...	40	21	151
Mass., except Boston....	169	221	362	Ireland	427	470	1933
Maine	64	84	160	Scotland.....	9	8	48
New Hampshire	64	48	146	British American Prov-			
Vermont	11	7	87	inces	44	56	102
Rhode Island	13	5	12	Germany.....	85	16	150
Connecticut	10	5	14	Other foreign places....	24	7	64
Other American States...	48	26	73	Unknown.....	17	7	313
	1315	1242	977		596	585	2761

It will be seen by reference to the foregoing, that of those dying in 1859, 1,782, or 47.67 per cent., were born in Boston; 10.43 per cent. in other towns in the Commonwealth; 8.32 per cent. in other parts of New England; and 1.98 per cent. in other parts of the United States. This shows that over 63 per cent. were American-born (although the native parentage was but 26.13 per cent.), and over 31 per cent. foreign-born. Of the latter, those born in Ireland make nearly 76 per cent. The Irish parentage of the whole number amounts to nearly 52 per cent. The year previous, those born in Ireland made 80 per cent., and those of Irish parentage 53.63 per cent. The New England parentage amounted to 24.18 per cent.

VIII. DEATHS each Month. Sex and Age of the Deceased.

MONTHS.	Under 1 yr.		1 to 2		2 to 3		3 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		15 to 20		20 to 25		25 to 30		30 to 35	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
January.....	28	30	15	15	4	4	5	4	3	5	3	2	2	6	1	10	11	14	15	10
February.....	29	17	14	11	5	3	8	2	3	3	.....	1	2	5	10	6	4	11	5	7
March.....	33	20	19	13	9	7	7	6	4	11	4	3	5	4	8	12	5	11	7	7
April.....	30	22	13	11	2	5	10	11	3	3	2	3	4	9	12	11	8	7	14	7
May.....	31	21	9	11	9	5	10	5	8	9	1	2	2	2	9	10	8	13	6	9
June.....	23	18	16	11	6	4	8	2	3	.....	9	8	3	8	7	7	11	4	6	6
July.....	38	33	27	20	9	4	7	11	6	7	7	4	2	6	8	10	11	9	2	10
August.....	90	78	39	23	12	9	8	6	14	5	2	1	4	6	8	7	11	11	5	9
September.....	57	47	25	33	4	13	4	6	4	6	4	4	3	4	8	6	9	11	7	10
October.....	38	28	20	10	5	9	6	8	4	4	1	3	7	6	7	12	9	12	15	10
November.....	28	24	12	15	5	4	5	10	5	10	5	.....	4	8	13	10	7	11	8	14
December.....	44	31	11	10	8	8	13	6	5	7	2	3	4	6	10	16	9	6	18	11
	469	374	220	183	78	75	91	77	62	70	40	34	42	70	101	117	103	120	108	110

Table VIII. — (Continued.)

MONTHS.	35 to 40		40 to 45		45 to 50		50 to 55		55 to 60		60 to 65		65 to 70		70 to 75		75 to 80		80 to 90		90 to 100	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
January.....	6	6	7	6	6	.....	9	6	2	3	7	5	5	6	4	9	2	4	5	.....	.....
February.....	9	7	5	6	7	7	6	3	8	5	6	6	5	1	3	3	1	2	2	3	.....
March.....	6	9	5	5	13	4	7	4	1	3	.....	1	4	7	2	6	4	2	2	1	.....
April.....	9	6	7	7	9	7	6	6	6	3	9	5	3	3	1	7	1	8	2	2	1	
May.....	8	10	8	8	10	6	8	4	9	7	6	4	2	3	4	1	2	2	3	6	1	
June.....	9	6	8	7	5	4	7	3	6	6	4	4	1	2	2	3	3	1	1	2	.....
July.....	11	6	9	6	5	4	4	5	1	7	1	4	3	6	1	3	.....	1	1	4	1
August.....	11	7	7	5	9	8	4	6	1	1	1	6	6	6	5	5	2	.....	1	.....	1
September.....	9	4	8	8	10	3	7	4	2	1	7	6	6	2	4	4	3	2	4	4	2	
October.....	9	11	4	11	10	11	2	7	5	4	2	4	4	5	4	.....	2	7	2	3	.....
November.....	5	9	9	6	5	5	8	7	8	9	6	4	3	6	2	2	2	4	1	3	1	
December.....	9	10	9	9	7	10	8	7	2	3	5	3	2	7	3	1	2	4	2	3	1	
	101	91	86	84	93	69	76	62	51	52	54	52	44	54	35	44	22	41	25	38	7	10

The following table shows the percentage of the mortality for each period of life in 1859, compared with the same in 1858:—

	1859				1858			
Under 1 year....	843	Being.....	22.55	Per cent.	910	Being.....	23.70	Per cent.
1 to 2 do	403	Do	10.78	Do	436	Do	11.35	Do
2 to 3 do	153	Do	4.09	Do	227	Do	5.91	Do
3 to 5 do	168	Do	4.49	Do	171	Do	4.45	Do
5 to 10 do	132	Do	3.53	Do	142	Do	3.70	Do
10 to 15 do	74	Do	1.97	Do	65	Do	1.69	Do
15 to 20 do	112	Do	3.00	Do	116	Do	3.02	Do
20 to 25 do	218	Do	5.83	Do	204	Do	5.31	Do
25 to 30 do	223	Do	5.96	Do	213	Do	5.54	Do
30 to 35 do	218	Do	5.83	Do	205	Do	5.33	Do
35 to 40 do	192	Do	5.13	Do	202	Do	5.26	Do
40 to 45 do	170	Do	4.54	Do	188	Do	4.89	Do
45 to 50 do	165	Do	4.41	Do	138	Do	3.59	Do
50 to 55 do	138	Do	3.69	Do	139	Do	3.62	Do
55 to 60 do	103	Do	2.75	Do	78	Do	2.03	Do
60 to 65 do	106	Do	2.80	Do	97	Do	2.52	Do
65 to 70 do	98	Do	2.62	Do	95	Do	2.46	Do
70 to 75 do	79	Do	2.11	Do	77	Do	2.00	Do
75 to 80 do	63	Do	1.68	Do	64	Do	1.66	Do
80 to 90 do	63	Do	1.68	Do	62	Do	1.61	Do
90 to 100 do	17	Do .....	.45	Do	11	Do .....	.28	Do
	3738		99.89				99.92	

It will be seen by Table VIII., that of the children dying under one year of age, 168, or nearly 20 per cent., died in the month of August; and 489, or 58 per cent., died in the five months of August, September, July, December, and October. There were 41 deaths in June, and 46 in February. The deaths during the other five months were about the same in

each. Of the 724 who died between one year and five years, nearly 36 per cent. died in the months of August, September, and July; viz: 13.39 per cent. in August; 11.74 per cent. in September; and 10.77 per cent. in July. There was but little difference between the other nine months, there being fewest in the months of February, June, and January.

It will be noticed that the mortality of those under 15 years of age was considerably less in 1859 than in 1858; it being 47.41 per cent. in the former year, and 50.80 per cent. in the latter. The mortality in 1859, between the age of 15 and 45 years, was 30.29 per cent.; in 1858 it was 29.35. The mortality for the same periods, above the age of 45 years, was 22.19 per cent. in 1859, and 19.77 per cent. in 1858.

Of the 843 children who died under one year of age, 599, or a little over 71 per cent., were children of foreign parents. Of the 724 children who died between one year and five years, 526, or 72.65 per cent., were of foreign parents. Of the 318 between 5 years and 20, — 212, or 63.52 per cent. were of the same origin. Of the whole number that died, 90, or 2.40 per cent., died on the day of their birth. Of these, over 87 per cent. were of foreign parentage. From 6 months to 12 months there were 315 deaths; only 81, or 25.71 per cent., were of children of foreign parentage.

IX. DEATHS, 1859. BIRTHPLACES of *Foreigners over 20 years of Age.*

BIRTHPLACE.	20 to 25		25 to 30		30 to 35		35 to 40		40 to 45		45 to 50		50 to 55		55 to 60		60 to 65		65 to 70		70 to 75		75 to 80		80 to 90		90 to 100		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
England	3	...	2	4	6	3	9	3	1	2	5	2	...	...	2	...	1	1	2	...	1	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	35	16
Ireland	36	39	44	56	53	63	51	56	41	43	53	38	28	29	28	18	29	27	15	26	12	19	8	18	7	10	5	2	416	444
Scotland	1	2	3	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	1	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	8
Br. Am. Provinces	12	10	6	10	3	1	3	5	2	2	...	2	2	3	2	1	1	...	...	2	...	1	1	1	...	2	...	...	32	40
Germany	2	1	5	4	5	1	2	2	7	...	2	1	5	...	1	1	1	...	2	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	33	13
Other places	4	...	4	1	3	2	4	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	20	6
	58	52	64	75	71	71	69	67	51	47	63	44	37	32	34	22	33	29	19	33	14	21	11	20	10	12	5	2	539	527

It will be seen by the foregoing, that no less than 1,066 of the deaths, or 28.51 per cent. of the whole mortality, were of foreign-born persons above 20 years of age. Of this latter number, 854, or 80.11 per cent. were born in Ireland.

The following table shows the number of deaths in each ward and in the various public institutions:—

Wards.	1859.		1858.	
	Deaths.	Per cent.	Deaths.	Per cent.
1	530	14.17	497	12.94
2	317	8.48	332	8.64
3	331	8.85	309	8.04
4	81	2.16	120	3.12
5	167	4.46	167	4.34
6	180	4.81	173	4.52
7	347	9.28	482	12.55
8	271	7.25	314	8.17
9	185	4.94	171	4.45
10	286	7.65	241	6.27
11	343	9.17	304	7.91
12	436	11.66	463	12.05
Massachusetts Hospital	134	3.58	121	3.15
Rainsford Island	63	1.68	70	1.82
Deer Island	41	1.09	48	1.25
Institutions at South Boston..	26	.69	27	.70
		99.92		99.92

There was an increase of the mortality in Wards 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, and in the Massachusetts Hospital; while there was a decrease in each of the other wards and institutions. The greatest decrease is seen in Ward 7, where it is 3.27 per cent. less than it was in 1858. The greatest increase was in Ward 10, where it was 1.38

per cent. The next highest increase was in Ward 11, where it was 1.26 per cent.

The number of still-births reported during the year, as seen by the following table, is 292,—174 males, and 104 females; 43 more than were recorded in the previous year. These cases occur nearly in the proportion of 1 to 20 of the births, and 1 to 13 of the deaths. Among them were six instances of twins.

	Males.	Females.	Unknown.
In January	13	7	2
February	11	12	
March.....	15	8	
April.....	18	7	1
May	24	11	2
June	16	11	1
July	14	6	2
August	12	11	1
September	10	9	4
October	14	6	
November	13	5	1
December.....	14	11	
	174	104	14

The annexed table shows the nativity and parentage of those who died from some of the principal diseases. The number embraced in it is 3,394, of whom 1,038, or 30.58 per cent. were foreign-born, and 1,175, or 34.62 per cent. were children of foreign parentage; the two

classes combined make 65.20 per cent. of the whole mortality.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Number.			
	Number.	Native.	Foreign.	Foreign Parentage.
Accidents	143	41	73	29
Apoplexy	55	31	22	2
Bowels, diseases of.....	47	28	14	5
Brain do	110	56	15	39
Cholera Infantum.....	243	59	.....	184
Consumption.....	739	244	456	39
Convulsions	68	14	.....	54
Croup.....	84	20	3	61
Debility	58	21	35	2
Diarrhoea	27	5	4	18
Dysentery	54	22	22	10
Dropsy	103	39	55	9
Dropsy of Brain	154	50	2	102
Erysipelas	24	13	5	6
Fever, Typhoid.....	74	41	21	12
Do Scarlet	142	43	7	92
Heart, diseases of.....	107	44	55	8
Hooping-cough	55	14	.....	41
Infantile diseases.....	165	31	.....	134
Intemperance.....	36	9	27	.....
Liver, Diseases of.....	29	11	18	.....
Lungs do	228	77	53	98
Marasmus	83	46	.....	37
Measles	15	3	.....	12
Old Age	78	45	33	.....
Paralysis	51	31	19	1
Pleurisy	28	4	24	.....
Puerperal diseases	42	13	29	.....
Scrofula	19	14	.....	5
Smallpox	156	62	33	61
Teething	98	22	.....	76
Thrush	17	10	.....	7
Unknown diseases	68	18	13	37

The following table exhibits the form of death of all who died from external causes:—

XI. DEATHS *from other than natural causes.*

ACCIDENTS.	M	F	ACCIDENTS.	M	F
Burned	4	13	By fall of snow.....		1
Drowned	31	6	By fall of a stone from building...	1	
Scalded.....	8	1	By fall of timber.....	1	
Suffocated.....	2		Struck by a windlass.....	1	
Killed on railroads.....	17	1	By kick of a horse.....	1	
Run over by vehicles.....	6		Sunstroke.....	1	
Fell from a table.....	1		Strangled by piece of meat.....	1	
Fell into vessels' holds.....	3		Shot.....	1	
Fell from a shelf.....	1		By blow from a pick-axe.....	1	
Fell through a scuttle.....	1		By eating matches.....	1	
Fell from windows.....	4	2	Strangled.....		1
Fell from ship's mast.....	1		Unknown.....	2	
Fell from a ladder.....	1				
Fell from a woodshed.....	1		HOMICIDES.		
Fell from a staging.....	1		Struck by a bottle.....	1	
Fell through a hatchway.....	1		Stabbed.....	2	
Fell from buildings.....	4		Strangled.....		2
Fell from a tree.....	1		Throat cut.....	1	
Fell from stable loft.....	1		Shot.....	1	
Fell from a team.....	1		By laudanum.....	1	
Fell into a cellar.....	1	1	Beaten.....	1	
Fell down stairs.....	2		Artery of arm severed.....	1	
Fell unknown.....		1	Unknown.....		1
Fell on a skewer.....		1			
Thrown from a wagon.....	1		SUICIDES,		
Exposure.....	1		Jumped from window.....	1	
Crushed by ice.....	1		Drowned.....	1	3
Crushed by boom of a vessel.....	1		By shooting.....	2	
By fall of a building.....	4		By laudanum.....	3	
By fall of a staging.....	1		By cutting throat.....	2	
By fall of boards.....	1	1	By hanging.....	3	
			By strychnine.....	1	

The average duration of life of members of various professions and occupations may be seen in the follow-

ing. The table embraces 841 persons, 285 of whom were "laborers," who make 33.88 per cent. of the whole number. Little dependence can be placed upon the estimated duration of life of this class, as not a dozen, perhaps, of the whole number knew their ages when alive, and those who gave the ages as they now appear, were as likely to specify one age as another.

XII. Aggregate and Average Ages of 841 persons who died in Boston in 1859, whose professions and occupations were ascertained.

No.	Occupations.	Ages ranging from	Aggregate Ages.	Average Ages.
255	Laborers	16 to 98	12,834	45.03
56	Mariners.....	16 to 82	2,078	37.10
49	Traders	23 to 78	2,272	46.36
36	Merchants.....	25 to 87	2,159	59.97
34	Clerks.....	16 to 67	1,188	34.94
27	Tailors.....	20 to 67	1,000	37.00
25	Carpenters.....	23 to 71	1,160	46.40
18	Teamsters	21 to 64	637	35.00
16	Shoemakers.....	19 to 83	628	39.00
16	Machinists.....	19 to 56	570	35.62
16	Gentlemen.....	26 to 90	1,056	66.00
12	Farmers, &c.....	25 to 77	711	59.25
11	Masons.....	20 to 60	486	44.18
11	Printers.....	18 to 60	390	35.45
9	Painters.....	18 to 62	331	36.77
9	Stonecutters.....	23 to 62	341	37.88
9	Blacksmiths.....	23 to 61	423	47.00
6	Waiters, &c.....	17 to 54	179	29.83
6	Coopers.....	25 to 75	336	56.00
6	Physicians.....	33 to 72	331	55.16
5	Ship-Carpenters.....	47 to 70	285	57.00
5	Riggers.....	30 to 71	184	36.80
5	Barbers.....	16 to 86	181	36.00
169	Various occupations.....	17 to 84	6,699	39.64
841			36,459	43.35

There is a singular uniformity in the number of "laborers" that die in each year. In 1855 the number that died was 305; in 1856, 308; in 1857, 297; in 1858, 290; and in 1859, 285.

XIII. BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, *and* INTENTIONS OF MARRIAGES, *recorded each month.*

MONTHS,	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Intentions.
January	504	290	255	250
February	425	241	190	200
March	502	285	161	136
April	407	295	123	192
May	514	293	256	221
June	457	244	204	226
July	461	320	163	184
August	532	440	193	237
September	498	368	234	233
October	544	324	258	274
November	513	303	291	230
December	533	335	133	196
	5,895	3,738	2,481	2,629

INTERMENTS.

The number of interments in the city proper during the past year was 160 only. In the three burial-places at South Boston there were 191 interments, and at East Boston 106. During the same time, there were brought here for interment from other places, 103 bodies.

Respectfully submitted,

N. A. APOLLONIO.

CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, }
 October, 1860. }

On page 30, third line from top, for Table VI. read XI.

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